



4th Edition

SYNERGY



COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad

SAICON 2008

1st South Asian International Conference
Globalization & Change: Issues, Concerns & Impact
November 12-14, 2008
Pearl Continental, Bhurban, Murree



SYNERGY

4th Edition

2008 - 2009



COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad

Mail to: Ciiitmagazine@comsats.edu.pk



Calligraphy by
Quratulain
Dept. of Architecture



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BBA, (Editor)***

***Syed Shams-ul Hassan
BBA, (Editor)***

***Sheryar Imtiaz
BCE, (Editor)***

***Student Architect Omer Shujat Bhatti
B-Arch (Editor & Graphics Designer (English Section))***

synergy

Left to right (Standing):
Ms. Keezia Haseeb
Ms. Kiren Nazar
Mr. Syed Shams-ul-Hassan
Mr. Omer Shujat Bhatti



Left to right (Sitting):
Mr. Mehdi Abbas
Mr. Mazhar Habib
Dr. Qaisar Abbas (Provost)
Mrs. Gulshan Zehra
Ms. Saadia Awan

Message from Rector



I appreciate that the editorial board has been able to bring out the 4th edition of 'Synergy' magazine. The efforts that have been made in the collection of articles and related material merits special mention in this regard. The editors and the faculty both deserve to be commended on their writing efforts.

The dissemination of knowledge is an integral step in the march towards developing sound scholastic base of the students. A magazine, in this direction, serves as a useful forum which allows the

students and the faculty to vent their feelings and share their experiences in a broader perspective. The contributions this time have been impressive indeed but we should be reaching for the sky. Instead of just producing old and hackneyed ideas, we ought to be original, imaginative and creative. We should make sincere attempt to cultivate our own writing style.

This publication will surely stoke the literary pursuits of the students and indeed set the tone for future issues in epitomizing the true academic spirit of COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT).

I once again commend all those who have made worthwhile endeavours in the making of this issue. I hope reading through this issue will surely enlighten the avid readers.

A job well done!

Dr. S M Junaid Zaidi SI
Rector

Note from Provost

It is certainly a matter of pleasure to see the 4 Islamabad Campus. It is all students editorial tea and edit contributions in the form of articles, pc indeed deserve to be congratulated for having a quality of printing.

A magazine in any educational set up serves a faculty to vent their thoughts and share their a general level.

The present issue of Synergy overwhelmingly : students. From the beginning of its maiden issue opportunity to the students to express their thoug continues to maintain its quality and wide readership.



It takes a lot of effort in converting an ordinary piece of composition into a quality reading material. Therefore, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Synergy team especially of Mr. Mehdi Abbas along with the students Saadia, Kiren, Keezia, Shams, Shehryar and Omer. They indeed have proved their mettle in bringing out Synergy - truly a masterpiece. While these students were busy in bringing out campus magazine, the others did exceptionally well in the art of elocution and essay writing competitions held lately in other universities. They brought laurels to the institution. This has been mainly possible because CIIT grooms and nurtures the qualities of creative writing and art of public speaking through declamation and debating contests. A number of other co-curricular activities such as Engineering Project Competitions, Marketing Fairs, Job Fairs, Business Planning Competition, Electronic Advertisement Design Competition, Bazm-e-Iqbal, Seminars and Workshops are held during the semester to hone the myriad skills of our students.

I congratulate all the editors for this dedicated effort. This magazine is indeed the reward of their assiduous hard work.

Enjoy Reading!!!

Dr. Qaisar Abbas
Provost - CIIT Islamabad



Saadia Awan

Editor, BBA, CIIT
Islamabad Pakistan

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Saadia Awan

Synergy > Saadia Awan

Favourite Quotes: "I never think of the future it comes soon enough" - Albert Einstein
"Man without God is nothing, God without man is still God" - Anonymous

scrapbook 3,234 photos 23 photo of her 1 videos 5 fans 9 trusty 9 cool 100

Saadia writes best Short Articles

Recent Book that Malcom X (The Autobiography) as told to Alex Haley
I read:

Saadia thanks: Everyone who has influenced me in life.

Saadia Says: It was an incredible experience writing for the magazine, as one starts composing it do we realize the immense amount of effort and talent that is fused together to make this collage of articles into one collected form. This magazine is of and for the students and we have tried to express there and our views in black and white. Creating this magazine would not have been possible without the key figures like Ma'am Gulshan, Sir Mazhar habib and Sir Mehdi. Sincere thanks to Sir Mehdi for leading and guiding us all the way and not the least our team, who has gelled together to create a fine piece of literary expression. This issue represents what we students think and the thoughts we entertain. This magazine gives a visage to our thoughts so Enjoy Reading some spectacular stuff!

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Kiren Nazar

Editor, BBA, CIIT
Islamabad Pakistan

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Kiren Nazar

Synergy > Kiren Nazar

Favourite Quote: "Wit beyond measure is man's greatest treasure"
- Rowena Ravenclaw (one of the co-founders of Hogwarts in Harry Potter)

scrapbook 2,456 photos 13 photo of her 1 videos 0 fans 11 trusty 9 cool 100

Kiren writes best Poetry and articles

Recent Books that Rain Fall by Barry Eisler, Best Foot Forward by Jeanne Ray
I read:

Kiren thanks: Allah, family, teachers & friends especially Mahwysh Gillani, Tamanna Faqiri, Jiya, Humayoun, Akif, Baber, Zaid & Yasin and You for reading my space ;-)

Kiren says: From the time of the editorial test to the last minute editing for the fourth issue of Synergy, I have only been inspired by the team's bobbling amount of creativity!

Under the able leadership of Sir Mazhar Habib, ma'am Gulshan Zahra, Sir Mehdi and Saadia baji, we juggled between fun and hectic routines of extracting quality articles from you: our walking talking think tanks!!! It is always good to know that our generation is busy rotating their "philosophically lubricated cogwheels" (a.k.a brains) unlike what is being portrayed otherwise.

This issue features loads of interesting and fun filled articles for you so you won't get

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Keezia Haseeb

Editor, BEA, CIIT
Islamabad Pakistan

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Keezia Haseeb

Synergy > Keezia Haseeb

Favourite Quote: "the better part of life is spent saying: it's too early, and then it's too late."

scrapbook 3,001 photos 12 photo of her 1 videos 0 fans 11 trusty 2 cool 2

Keezia writes bestPoetry

Recent Books that Who Moved My Cheese? By Dr Spencer Johnson and My Feudal I read: Lord by Tehmina Durrani

Keezia thanks: Allah to bestow upon me such great parents who have always been so encouraging and always encourage me to explore life! Teachers to let my creativity seep out! Nano, Qaneeta, Mehnam, Huzan, Faiz, Sidrah and Phusantooos this wouldn't have been possible without them. My mentor at synergy sadia baji and Sir Mehdi to guide me

Keezia says: I've always been interested in magazines be it any weekly, daily, school or college. MAGs inspire me! Even here at the orientation session the first thing to grab my attention was SYNERGY reading it I had wanted to be a part of it. And today I am! I still remember the test, the interview the meetings the editing sessions it was another world and I just love it and enjoyed it to the fullest. It seemed be what I had always desired to do. For me the experience to be on synergy's editorial team was extraordinary. Hope reading it would provide you with the same pleasure. May Allah Bless us All!

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Syed Shams-ul-Hassan

Editor, BEA, CIIT
Islamabad Pakistan

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- events

Syed Shams-ul-Hassan

Synergy > Syed Shams-ul-Hassan

Favourite Quotes: "Don't cry like a woman over a thing you can not protect like a man". Once, Russian army chief quoted it when his general lost his territory to his enemy in 2nd world war.

scrapbook 5,666 photos 31 photo of him 1 videos 16 fans 11 trusty 2 cool 2

Shams writes best-hilarious compositions and poetry.

Recent Books that Ghubar e Khatir by Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, Bitter Fruit best of I read: Saadat Hassan Manto, Daily Dawn at Dawn.

Shams thanks: Allah Almighty, family, teachers and friends, they are so many: Urooj, Nabeel, Usman, Arslan, Khaleeq, Sadaf and friends from Lahore campus, Taimor, Hamza, Aleena, Aiza and Sehar.

Shams says: Words have an effect, words have an impact, words can cast spell and magic, words can make, words can mar, words can bring smile on your face also it can bring tears in eyes. Synergy provided me opportunity to gauge, explore and experience the power of words. It gives me immense pleasure to witness quality depicted in the collection and worthy contributions that we received from Comsians, as if they are aware of the power of words.

It is said that thousand miles journey starts with first step, synergy-4 can be the first step for me towards the huge journey ahead. I dedicate all my writings and contributions to my father and the departed soul of my mother. They made and

life through their eyes.

So dear reader, this magazine is all yours now. It's no more a hidden treasure. Explore it, read it and experience the magic of words... Happy reading !

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Shehryar Imtiaz

Editor, BCE, CIIT
Islamabad, Pakistan

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Shehryar Imtiaz

Synergy > Shehryar Imtiaz

Favourite Quote: "it is fatal to enter a war without having the will to win it" (J.F Kennedy)

scraps	photos	photo of him	videos	fans	trusty	cool
9,456	83	1	20	8	2	2

Shehryar writes bestEssays on political history and military topics.

Recent Books that I read: The Juror by John Grisham, First Among Equals by Jeffery Archer, I am not a crook by Richard Nixon, Reconstruction of Religious Thought by Allama Iqbal.

Shehryar thanks: Allah Almighty, My Parents, Bari Behan, Sir Ali Khaqan, The whole BCE 5(B) and last but not the least our beloved Sir Mehdi Abbas.

Shehryar says: Finally the magazine is in your hands. To be very honest it was very difficult for the whole editorial team to fill in the shoes of the previous board and to maintain the standard of Synergy set by them but thanks to Allah it's finally done and we have come up with some really good reading material.

Also it would be unfair if I don't mention the names of Ma'am Gulshan Zehra who got married and Rashid Qamar (late) who left us even before we started working. This magazine is a tribute to both of them. I wish Ma'am Gulshan a very happy married life.

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Omer Shujat Bhatti

Editor, Graphic Designer
B Arch, CIIT
Islamabad, Pakistan

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Student Architect Omer Shujat Bhatti

Synergy > Omer Shujat Bhatti

Favourite Quote: "A man is not made to be defeated, he can be destroyed but he cannot be defeated." From novel "Old man and the Sea".

scraps	photos	photo of him	videos	fans	trusty	cool
1,426	11	1	5	9	2	2

Omerwrites bestExpressive poetry and Articles.

Recent Book that I read: "Old man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway.

Omer thanks: Allah Almighty, my parents, my wife and kids, friends, editorial wing and my department teachers for guiding me and forgiving my

Omer says: Life is more than a blessing to me, it's a cruel reality of facts and figures that I may not want to follow but yet I accept them. It's the true essence of a human being to be a human being. We all are here to make mistakes and to learn from them. Every new mistake opens a new face to encourage myself to move ahead and try to excel. Yes, I wish it all works this way but hurdles make us strong and tell us how far have we gone and yet how far to go. I believe that my mistakes as an editor and a graphics designer are far to be forgiven. So get ready to have pleasure from them and enjoy reading. Guide us all to improve and excel in the quality standards of SYNERGY. ... Be well.!

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Don't just watch.. Help Swat-IDP's



Share the Burden !

Synergy - 4th Edition

2008-2009

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Keezia Haseeb
Kiren Nazar
Omer shujat Bhatti
Saadia Awan
Shehryar Imtiaz
Syed Shams-ul-Hassan

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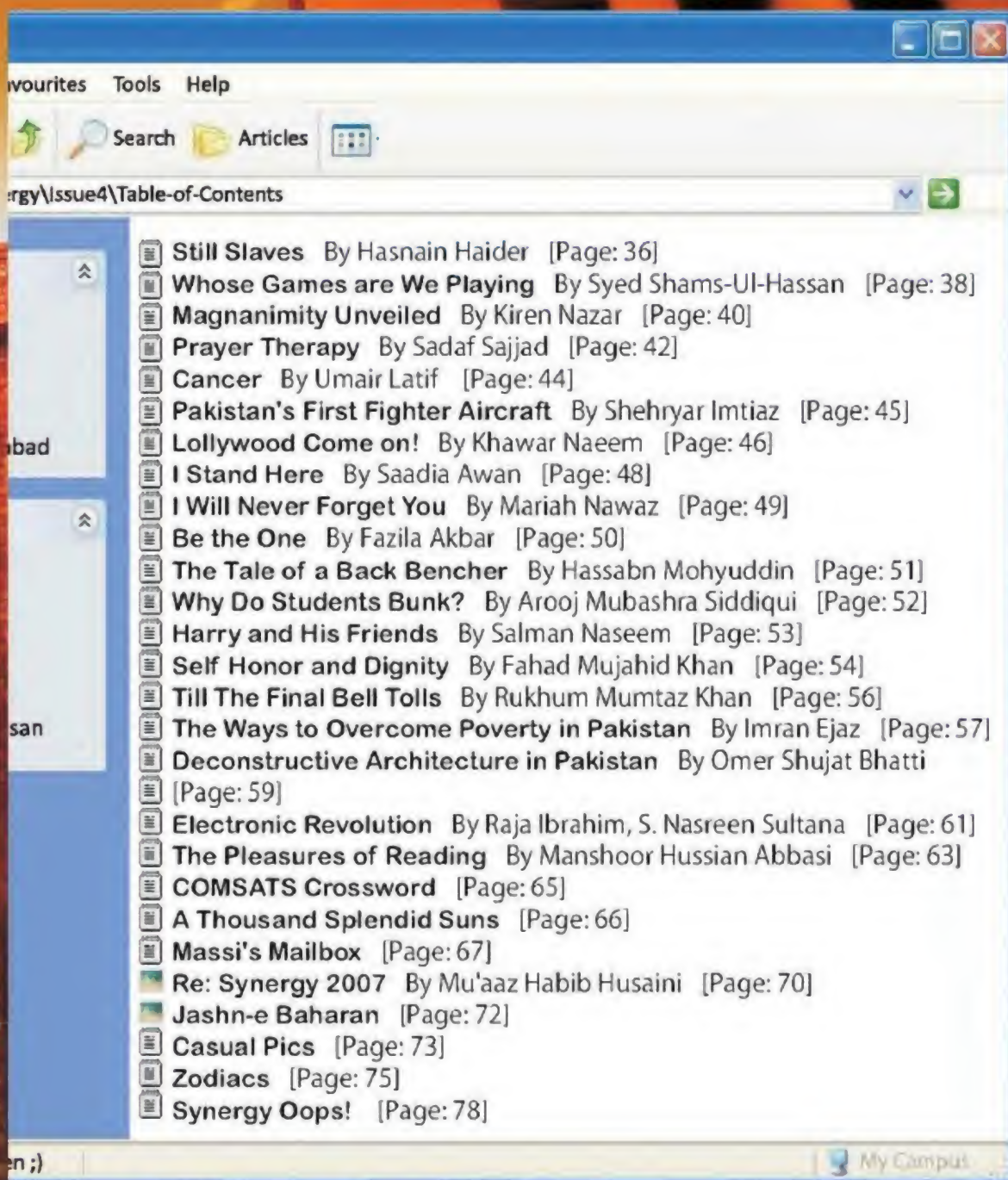
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56 articles (plus 1 hidden :)

My Campus


56 articles (plus 1 hidden)

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"Live amongst people in such a manner that if you die they weep over you and if you are alive they crave for your company"

Hazrat Ali Ibn-e-Abi Talib
Nahj-ul-Balagha



How Many...?

A man points a gun towards a twelve year old child and within a split second he pulls the trigger; projecting the bullet out of the gun's nozzle. The bullet sweeps through the air and deeply pierces the child's delicate heart.

The child takes final gasps of air, his knuckles now turning deep white; goes into a deep trance into what Shakespeare termed as the undiscovered country whose bourn no travel returns.

Who was that innocent child who died? A Christian?, A Jew or A Hindu? The answer more definitely is "No". Was he a Muslim, targeted by oppression? Yes.... Now it would surely cross our mind as to ask, who was the transgressor? Whose tyranny resulted into a killing of an innocent child? Of another so-called Muslim!

We as Muslims are bestowed upon by Allah to spread the message of peace throughout the world like the cool zephyr reaching across the globe. But by self analyzing one realizes that we are dreadfully and despicably falling into the depth of seas.

We are not just killing our enemies rather we are committing genocide by killing people of our own flesh and blood, our own brethren, our own kin.

Where is our conscience? Why are we dishonoring words of Allah's and of his beloved prophet Hazrat Muhammad P.B.U.H.? Why is it that we don't feel shame? How many of us actually repent after committing a sin? How many of us still have "the health of a soul"? (Joseph Joubert)

How many of us are altruistic or don't have a selfish bone in our in our body?

How many of us are generous enough to help the widows, the orphans and the needy?

How many of us have dyed our hands with the blood of the innocent; but still, we don't feel unpleasant?

How many of us have burnt other people's homes but have not imagined ourselves being buried in the everlasting, scorching fires of Hell.

How many of us are actually thinking of making a real difference; not only in our society but in the whole world, by walking on the straight path? HOW MANY?

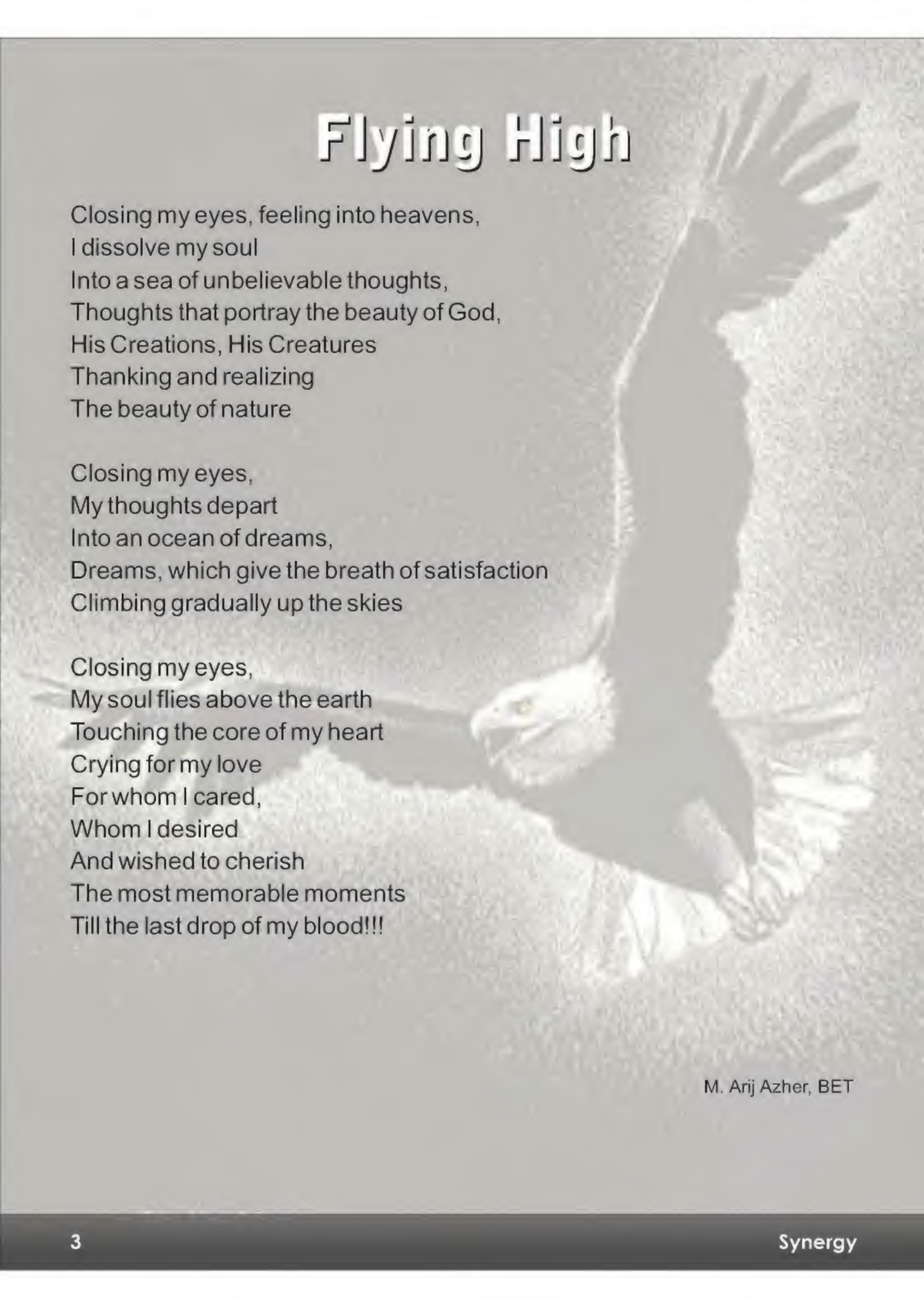
Our common-thought as a nation seams jeopardized, as all of us Muslims seam trapped on a devil's island. There is only one way of escape. That is to follow the true path etched by Allah. But we Muslims are so attached to this mundane world of luxury that we have forgotten the grandiosity of heaven –the Jannah, the land that a true believer desires, a land where Muslims of true value will dwell for eternity in the ever lasting peace.

We have taken Allah's existence, his patience, and his blessings for granted. What if Allah stops answering to our prayers!!!! What if he stops bestowing his blessing on us?

WHAT IF HE STOPS LOVING US???????

Jasia Sarmad, BBA

Flying High

A bald eagle is shown in a powerful, upward flight against a backdrop of soft, white clouds. The eagle's wings are fully extended, with the primary feathers on the right wing clearly visible. Its head is turned slightly to the left, showing its sharp beak and intense gaze. The overall tone of the image is serene and majestic, complementing the poem's theme of soaring high.

Closing my eyes, feeling into heavens,
I dissolve my soul
Into a sea of unbelievable thoughts,
Thoughts that portray the beauty of God,
His Creations, His Creatures
Thanking and realizing
The beauty of nature

Closing my eyes,
My thoughts depart
Into an ocean of dreams,
Dreams, which give the breath of satisfaction
Climbing gradually up the skies

Closing my eyes,
My soul flies above the earth
Touching the core of my heart
Crying for my love
For whom I cared,
Whom I desired
And wished to cherish
The most memorable moments
Till the last drop of my blood!!!

M. Arij Azher, BET

Hidden Dilemma...

Dear reader ahead awaits a story that is so grandiloquent that it will revive your senses. Your piquant taste will be quenched with a thought that relinquishes the mind and the soul.

The pristine paper ahead, is ornate of pearls like words that acclaim to reflect the deep inner philosophical thoughts that even the deep thinkers couldn't ponder on.

It's a tribute! A thriving sensation one has when receiving knowledge that lies beyond abilities and ones approach. It is a celestial world full of incomprehensible knowledge which lies beyond my approach.

Who I am? What I do? Where I am? I am unaware of. I know I exist but I can't consciously say where, in subconscious or I lay hidden somewhere, waiting to be sought after at. On daily basis I test my knowledge, abilities, skills, and daily try to learn. There are people like me; you may come across them while jostling your way across the street full of strange and estranged people. The only contact you may have with them is rubbing your shoulders collide others while crossing the street in great hurry.

I aspire, I inspire, I reveal and I conquer. Everything provokes me to think. I know no bounds in my horizon of learning and observing. All stimulate me to think. I have thought from subatomic level to levels reaching far i.e far away galaxies, to black holes and there things in nature that continuously mesmerise us.

Aspiration and inspirations are thriving forces of my life. My indomitable spirit of scientific research stimulates me to discover elixir of life and developing a potion that promises eternal youth. Turning mere haystack to gold is my dream. I am adroit in telepathy and my personality thrive son it. Just as people judge book by its cover I judge people by there facets.

I am a remarkably talented person still I don't know things I should know and am ignorant at various aspects.

I am not a pious religious cleric, my believes seem to frail and mutilated. Daily am engaged in a bout against the devil. I keep juggling my self between right and wrong.

I am a dissatisfied person, why? I keep asking myself. I am a hypocrite, my acts always differ with respect to what I have to say, and still I prefer to call my self an honest person sincere to all. I am a guileful deceiver, I duplicate my feelings. I encroach hurt, torment all-around me. I use everyone even a minuscule fly that passes by me.

Though, I might appear a knavish and an ugly person. But paradoxically you will find me as one of the finest creations on earth acquiring two most sought after traits that is beauty and brains.

I might appear arrogant and pompous but in reality I am one of the most bashful and humble person on earth. I seem to shine with confidence but there are times where I fear even my own self. I consider myself a true genius on same platform as eminent scholars, there are also times where I fear that my genius has elapsed and has left me all alone as the shadow leaves your side in the dark. I seem dauntless but even my own contagious thoughts provoke fear in me.

I have an enigmatic personality, which even I fail to recognize. I go on a quest daily to find to the answer to the question of; Who I Am? Who I was a year ago? Who I will be after this moment and what I will be in future? The answer lies somewhere hidden, not mysteriously; the truth I know lays out openly screaming for attention. It is revelation of Allah, The Quran that takes us out of such dilemmas of life. Clearly there are things that are within our approach of understanding but there are also those that lie beyond our mode of understanding. If we find ourselves in view of Allah it evidently the key to extricate oneself out of all these materialistic dilemmas. It is up to us to find the path that leads us towards Allah.

Saadia Awan, Chief Editor, BBA

An Optimistic Pakistani

As far as I can recollect, in my so-far short life, I have hardly gotten through anything worse than 12th May, 2007. Those series of incidents were really a very remorseful chapter in the history of Pakistan. Now, 12th May has become far more than a Gregorian date for the Pakistanis; it seems, instead, that it has become a standard, a scale, a measure for disaster and massacre! I think I wouldn't be exaggerating if I call the date of 12th May the most unfortunate after 16th December, 1971. I won't go into the details, blaming any single person or group. As it's an intensely controversial topic still, I can't help ushering the thought, and I hope that most would agree, that we haven't learnt a single thing from that huge mistake (of course you still remember 9th April, 2008)! Why? Simply because the ones responsible for all this have no concern whatsoever for their country and the importance of political and social stability inside it. In other words, they are serving only their 'self-interest'. And I can't deny that most of the people around us focus on self-interest only. Now the question is, whether this argument is enough to establish for us to start following the 'others' as well. Should we also adopt some widely accepted sin; Should we also do what the Romans do when they are in Rome; should we also call (as Habib Jalib says) zulmat ko zia, sarsar ko saba aur banday ko khuda if the others also do so. The answer would require being a little off the track. Remember why humans are called Ashraf-ul-Makhlooqaat? I mean the angels also carry out the tasks assigned to them by Allah. The animals also have mundane needs: sleeping, eating, preying or avoid being a prey. The plants are trapped in their own cycle of life. Then what is it that segregates the human from the other creatures? Any clue? No? It's the decision-making nature of the human. The power to choose between right and wrong, the ability to opt the right path amongst many directions, the sense of sorting out what is best for him from a bunch of options, it is why the humans are considered Ashraf of all the Makhlooqaat. In this perspective, a more complex question arises, id est. are we humans? If we only are capable of doing what we are programmed to do, without the faintest idea of 'why' do we deserve to be called humans? You don't just have to have 46 chromosomes in your cell for being called a human, you know.

Ever thought why didn't Socrates just wear a blindfold and excused that he was 'taught' that the idea world was flat? Galileo could have followed the false theories about the world being centre of the galaxy, by the apology that he was 'taught' so. Hope you remember how Mujaddid Alif Sani refused bowing down before King Akbar.

This was all due to the knack of human to get to (what he thought was) right, instead of blindly imitating others. I remember to have been greatly inspired by the saying of a Nobel Laureate in Physics, Gerardus 't Hooft in a meeting with some Pakistani students that 'Never believe in what people tell you. Check yourself'. And that indeed was the key to all his achievements.

All this concludes that we are not only supposed to drag along the society, without considering whether it's right or wrong. A lame excuse of a lazy person is, if someone says that he chose the wrong path only because he saw everyone going there.

Secondly, some people think that the only solution to all the political, social, economic, religious and other problems is to flee the country. After counting dozens of problems their country has on fingertips, such people suggest that we should leave the country, henceforth, go on living somewhere abroad, 'peacefully'. Some also try to link all these problems to the reason why they shouldn't love their country. They think that these crises are enough to mark them off from the list of the patriots. I can't express how strange this behavior seems to me. Just when numerous troubles are engulfing your country, you just want to run away from it? I mean this is the moment your country needs you the most! You're supposed to love Pakistan just because you are a Pakistani, aren't you? I fail to understand why people don't realize this. Altaf Hussain Hali expresses it better than I can;

Nahi sehel gar said ka haath aana
To lazim hay ghauron ko sarpat bhagana
Na baitho jo hay bojh bhaari uthana
Zara taiz haanko jo hay door jana
Zamana agar tum se zor aazma hay
To waqt aye azizo! Yehi zor ka hay!

If God forbid a family member of yours, say one of your parents meets a drastic accident and loses their legs, what would you do? I'm sure you won't leave them in the alley and go in the market to find another parent! You will try whatever would be in your power to make them recover their health. And if this wouldn't be possible, you at least would try your best to do anything to solace them, as in helping them move from place to place. Why? Because you realize that this is the time they need you the most! If you yourself don't comfort them, who else would they expect to, the neighbors?

Almost the same is the case with you and your country being enveloped in countless perils. There are problems, I agree, but who's going to sort them out the angels? Of course us! It's you and me! It's the Pakistanis who're supposed to work earnestly for Pakistan. Some verses of a Punjabi poem overflow out of my mind;

Ho nai janda, karna painda aey
Dukh nu, sukh nu, dharna painda aey
Haq day wastay larna painda aey
Jeenay laiyye marna painda aey...

So it's like 'ho nai janda, karna painda aey'! Our dear homeland is facing a lot more than many challenges now-a-days. And it's actually the youth of Pakistan who has to realize the significance of it. If we don't realize it now, I can't help fearing that we might do the same to our country what our elders have been doing... or maybe worse!

So, this is the time we'll have to come out of this 'self-interest' fence and start thinking on a broader outlook. We'll have to consider the sake of our country too, in every important decision we ought to make, instead of just considering our own comfort. The problems are there but running away from them is in no way a good choice. The real courage is in facing those problems manfully, so that no one in the future would have to suffer from them, even worse than we have done.

I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth. My father is not a businessman or something. I also belong to the middle class, and I also have seen and been effected by inflation, corruption, favoritism, nepotism, etcetera, etcetera. But all these haven't any hatred; instead they arise my devotion towards my country. I can feel how much motherland needs me with every passing day, as the magnitude of every trouble is mounting.

Conclusion:

Criticism is good as it keeps us aware of the shortcomings we have. But the criticism that also includes some reasonable solutions is much better. As they say, 'actions speak louder than words' or 'handsome is as handsome does'.

Furthermore, in addition to blaming others, we also should take some time in peeking inside our own selves. Maybe the solution to all the problems lies in our own selves and maybe the problems we are facing are due to our own behavior. As they say,

"As YOU sow, so shall YOU reap."

Peace!

Ali Suleman
BS-Telecom

Tears

*When my own become strangers to me, tears owe me;
When the world becomes cold to me, tears hold me;
When everything scatters after a storm, tears gather me;
When a season of memories comes, tears melt me;
When fire of betrayal blazes in stolid nights, tears calm me;
When I wish to cry in mother's lap, tears embrace me;
When I raise hands for pray before my Lord, tears join me;
Though, eternal companions of my solitude,
I wish tears never come in someone's eyes...!*

Maryam
(BSB)

I hate Cell Phones

All this would have been absurd four five years, ago even for me just like any other teenager of that time. I also had a cellphone-craze wanting the best of the best. But times do change and so do we. Many years ago, I read an article in a magazine written by my college teacher titled 'Technology has made the man lonely' at that time I thought how foolish and narrow minded this person was, never thinking that one day I will agree with him. I have no problems with the advancement of technology but the way we use it has made it a living demon for many people. This topic to be written by a telecom engineer is very strange but my project of cell phone jammers clearly shows how much I hate these cell phones. My dislike for these devices became my hatred on May 7th, 2008 when my sweet little word went in flames merely because of a sms. But before I discuss my story lets see in general how these cell phones are like little devils.

Being able to stay in touch is great, but only on my terms. When I leave my home to go to classes, or someplace else on campus, I leave my cell phone at my home. Why? Because if I'm going to sit in a classroom for an hour, which I'm paying to do, then I don't want people bothering me with text messages, pointless phone calls or other stupid stuff like dirty jokes. And if I do take the phone with me, I make friends with the "off" button. That's probably my favourite feature, he he.

I like being completely unavailable. That's the whole point of going out and doing things away from my apartment. That's why I go off by myself and rides my bike; hang out in the library, etc. I don't like being available twenty four hours a day; just imagine how cheap it is to be at ones disposal at all the times, even for your most cherished beings called friends.

But I think I'm the only one on this entire campus who feels that way. I watch my fellow students sending text messages rampantly back and forth through out the entire class meeting. Or, they grab their phones to call their friends the second the class gets out. They've only been out of touch for 15 minutes, but they must be going through some sort of withdrawal syndrome or something.

How did these people manage to live before cell phones became affordable?

You get sms late at night thinking someone really needs your help but you find out that its only a funny sms ahhh don't u wish at that time to just throw the dam phone away?

We usually see that two people sitting together in the campus café are two good friend but they are not talking to each other hmmm, may be they had a fight! oh if they did why are they sitting together? lets go and inspect them closely and I am sure you will not be surprised to know that they are busy in smsing probably to one another. Well how dam stupid it is that your sender becomes more important than the person who is sitting in front of you.

Let me come right out and say it: You are chronic cell phone users, I'm thoroughly sick of you.

I'm sick of having to listen to your dumb conversations as I walk down the street or sit in the park or anywhere where people used to sit in peace.

I'm sick of having to be wary of you while you chat away in a car too close to me. Especially you vapid girls and young women with your attention far away from moving several tons of metal along a road.

I'm sick of having to manoeuvre my shopping cart around you while you talk to someone at the other end about the goddamn freshness of the carrots or whether to buy Cheese or Wheat. I'm sick

of hearing your one-sided chit chat while I'm trying to enjoy a meal in a restaurant.

Hey, I don't want to hear about your romantic problems, your job woes, your vaccination or your yeast infections.

I'm sick of the various sounds of your phones' "ringing," all those sounds engineered just for you. I don't know why god doesn't just throw a lightning bolt striking on the person whose Bollywood tune just rang in the mosque.

Ok let's come back to my story, I don't know why it is so easy to express your feeling through your phone. You can say anything you want through an sms without thinking of the consequences. This is nothing but lake of outpouring confidence its making our generation more addicted to this method they feel more secure behind a phone number. You can make friends through cell phone, you can tell your heart out to the girl you love through sms. But I dare all these people to do the same thing in person but I am not that kind of a person, I like to meet people in person talk to them face to face and I think this was my only mistake that ruined my 5th semester .I think you would understand what happened next so my advise to all would be that stop living in a mobile world go out and reach your goals by moving your arms and legs instead of fingers.

P.S

So eventually, I'll have to own a cell phone. But I might not have it with me when you call.



Ammar J. Malik
BS-Telecom

“

Don't follow where the path may lead.
Go instead where there is no path
and leave a trail.

”

Goals in Life

It is essential that we understand where we want to go in life. Simply put, it is about realizing one's goals in life. Setting goals allows you to develop a better understanding of life. Everyone aspires to thrive no matter what their circle of influence maybe. Who doesn't want to be successful? However silly is it that only a few become stars? Think about it!

The definition of success varies with people. Some would want to have millions of rupees in their bank account, while some would be content with just earning enough to meet their expenses. It is essential though that we understand where we want to go in life. Simply put, it is about realizing one's goals in life. Setting goals allows you to develop a better understanding of life.

One would then ask, "What do I do when I have set my goal?" Setting goals isn't it; day dreamers set hundreds of goals they never achieve. Once you know what your aims are in life, you should develop an action plan. It is a conscious effort to achieve one's goals. Plan your actions about what you can do today in order to get to your destination. Dreams cannot be realized overnight. Break them down to what you have to do today, tomorrow, one year down the line to ten years in the future.

Break! Red light! Somewhere down the line people will tell you that you're being silly. Or you will feel that everything is really absurd. What then? Will you give up? No. You apply strength of spirit. Develop the attitude. Think! Wouldn't Bill Gates have had times where they said that he was silly? Pick-up any successful person's biography and you will find the chaos they went through.

Fear and apathy can spread through your life like wild fire. However, it is about controlling your emotions and moving on. It will be tough but that is where dedication comes in.

But again, if you only have a hammer in your toolbox you will have no choice but to use it for every situation-and mess up. Once you have developed your goals, action plans and show a positive attitude, you have to set out to acquire the skills, tools and knowledge to capture success. The sources are the web, books, and the experiences of others. If you look around you, you will also come across programs that help you empower yourself.

Adnan Ammar
BBA Hons

A Nightmare

*An only Home was standing,
Where do I now stand?
Days it took for raising,
But fell like wall of sand.*

*I found no words to say,
For that terrible, eminent day
All the Homes, Offices and Schools
Nothing remained in just one piece.
The nature told them that it rules,
By making all to "rest in piece"*

*The learning Children were buried,
From the bustling life, were freed.
Many a people dead, smell their smell,
Mocking here and there at me.
Again no words have I to tell,
What I heard and what I see.*

*Looking left and looking right,
Same I found sighing sight.*

*Now I stand and think for good,
And build the courage in my flock.
We need amongst us brotherhood,
To stand firm as a wall of rock
We Will Build Our Homes Again
That I & He & We Will Sustain.*

Hasan Raza Hamdani
BBA

The Breeze and its Mistaken Heaven

Ages ago breeze was trying to reach heaven but she was hitched finding her way. She winged from here to there and suddenly came a surreal voice; distant yet coherent, and guided the breeze towards a garden stating that it was the only way that could her lead to heaven though the voice also elucidated that the she might find another way to heaven but that wont be apt for her, so the breeze had no other choice and started towards the garden as guided by the eternal voice.

The Breeze had always venerated herself extremely and she was so bigheaded of her existence but as soon as the breeze reached the garden she was walloped and thought the very garden to be heaven. The garden's beauty was undoubtedly serene and spell bonding. Everything in there seemed so new and spot on. The sky was dusky and red but no sign of blue; birds churning and chirping in a way that deafened the breeze .The trees so tall that made her loose her connotation; the grass so green but ingesting. Their foliage bore no fruits only flowers that too thorny; springs oozed water that intoxicated; Flowers so colorful that the breeze felt grey; mountains so high before reaching the peak, she knew she would die. Yet the forged beauty caught her up and she was wedged in her mistaken heaven stuck or caught she failed to know. Their came times that the breeze wanted to break out her mistaken heaven but the flowers ,trees, grass would not let her do so.

Thus she kept puffing there, adding to the beauty of garden. The cost to be in the garden was her spirit and liberty. The garden made her believe that the breeze was nothing devoid of the garden. Oh the poor breeze! Wish she had known the garden needed her to be the garden he should be; its beauty depended on her. But the breeze was breeze even if on barren land. But she was locked inside the garden because she herself abortive to comprehend what she was! Though the garden had blinded her but she was blinded only because she didn't made a move to do away with the blind fold. And she was caught there for ever and ever, and whenever she rushed through the leaves of the garden trees, the only words she uttered afterwards were: I Hate You, But I Am Bound to Be with You!.... forever...

Keezia Haseeb
Editor, BBA

“

Each and every single thing ever created
by the hands of humankind began as a
single thought.

If each of us is capable of such thought,
then each of us is also capable of such
creative grandness

”

Perfection of an Imperfect Life

What day is it? I lost track of time so long ago I don't even remember. But I get an idea, from my aching body whose each movement makes thousand promises of pain to come, that I am old...I am lying on a bed,where? I do not know, but the funny part is that I simply don't care any more.

They say when you are about to die, your whole life comes flashing by your eyes like some Hollywood movie with great camera effects and with an original storyline.

...a small town with an average life, my brother and sister and my father who was always trying his luck in different businesses. Never saw a steady and prosperous life. Hard times in childhood, a morale destroyer for a little child.an action figure which I used to stare all day long outside a toyshop: a bicycle of my dreams...the green bike with shiny gears....Alas! Never got to own any of them...

Friends...well, I was a bit lucky there...always had a bunch full of friends by my side. My mother...a childhood hero to me...I never saw anyone so strong...I don't know if I could or had loved anyone more than I had my mother.

My first love! Ahhh....magic...but like always, unlucky! Never convinced her about how much she meant to me...never quite understood what insecurities she was facing, but I like Mr. Problem Solver always told her, "everything will be ok, just say yes, please....say yes..." But just my luck, never got to hear those magical words for which I eagerly waited.

Afterwards my life went by so averaged and fast, that I don't even find it fancy enough to mention. Endless daily cycles of living a worthless life.. from day to night... striving to have a better living. And that was it? Few people to remember....few deeds done good... and nothing special ...nothing extraordinary... an aimless life moving towards its fruitless end.

But in a likely event of my death, I have no remorse what so ever on my life. I can't say I've seen better times, but my only regret is if only I had cherished the better moments, the loving memories....only if I had done so I still could have called my life perfect...

Mustafa Khan
BBA

Meritorious Achievements

All of us like to be acclaimed after diligently perspiring work. Positive appraisals are like chimes in ones ear. Our university is a prep ground that is undoubtedly preparing us for the professional world. Where most of us are spending time cramming the details mentioned in books. Some people are active to experience and observe the world hand to hand and are keen and enthusiastic enough to compare the academic ideologies with what is really being implemented in the real world.

EMCOT 2009

- Raheel Maqsood Hashmi, Memoona Jabeen, Arooj Mubashara Siddiqui,
Department of Electrical Engineering

Recently EMCOT 2009 was held on 11st & 12nd MAY 2009 at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Abbottabad, Pakistan. Five projects were presented by the students of Electrical Engineering Department, Islamabad.

In this event, there were no less than 100 projects in competition from 22 reputed universities from all over Pakistan. We are glad to inform that a project of students of Electrical Engineering Department of Islamabad Campus, won 2nd Position. The project was on "Improved Security Network Authentication Protocol (ISNAP)"

Group Members were::

- 1) Raheel Maqsood Hashmi (FA05-BET-054)
- 2) Memoona Jabeen (FA05-BET-040)
- 3) Arooj Mubashara Siddiqui (FA05-BET-012)

The Project was supervised by Mr. Khurram Saleem Alimgaer.



SIACON - Mohsin Hakeem MBO

Mohsin Hakeem a fellow Comsatian is an example of one of those inquisitive mind, is example of how students can partake successful ventures in trying to pursue research during there academic years at universities.

While most of us at the end of semester try to juggle different projects given across the semester, Mohsin Hakeem a student of MBO specializing in Finance, thought of applying his experience of working at Stock Exchange and used it to work on project under the supervision of Mr. Imarn Ghafoor. Having worked and done Internship at Stock Exchange he remembered how he sat there for a month in brokerage house just trying to see how transactions and investments are made.

Keeping this in mind he thought of writing Research paper on, "A comparative Analysis on the IPO's (initial Primary Offerings) of HBL, PPL, OGDC and KEPCO. Critically studying the impact they had on market, investors, volume of trading, returns that were gained."

The research paper was co-authored by Sajjad Ahmad Khoso , M. Saad Ejaz and Mohsin Hakeem. As it would be the research paper written by them was of substantial matter hence their Supervisor Mr Imran Ghafoor Ch., asked them to register in SIACON conference that was being hosted by COMSATS, where participants from all around the globe were presenting their papers to honorable delegates of eminent universities.

An exemplary figure he is and should be for students who want to achieve something in there academic life, where most of us turn our heads away from implementing our knowledge he is one amongst who is willing to apply his knowledge in practical business world arena. Where most of us have turned a blind eye to present age Recession , Mr Hakeem is busy scribbling another research paper," Impact of Financial Crisis on Pakistani Banking System", which he's InshAllah planning to present on EWB (Education Without Borders).

NUTEC 2009

- Raheel Maqsood Hashmi, Faizan Rasool, Khurram Shahzad
Department of Electrical Engineering

Among the three students who won second position in EMCOT, Raheel Maqsood Hashmi had also recently won another competition few days back, on entirely different field. This was the "Wi-Fi Antenna Design Competition" at the National University Technology Contest NUTEC 2009 held on 1st & 2nd MAY 2009 at FAST-NU, Peshawar, Pakistan. Electrical Engineering students Faizan Rasool and Khurram Shahzad also accompanied him in this event. Together they were able to secure 2nd position among the 7 participating universities of Pakistan.





Inter-University Quiz Competition

- Ali Anwaar , Fouwad Jamil Mir,
Shahzad Ahmed, Muhammad
Saad, M. Tayyab Manzoor
Department of Electrical
Engineering

Bahria University Islamabad recently established an IEEE student branch at its campus. It organized an Inter-University Quiz Competition in which universities from Islamabad and Rawalpindi competed for the winner's trophy and a cash prize of Rs. 25000. The quiz was held on 18th May 2009.

Students of Electrical Engineering Department of Islamabad Campus Won 1st Position. The team included Ali Anwaar (BCE), Fouwad Jamil Mir (BCE), Shahzad Ahmed (BCE) Muhammad Saad (BCE), M. Tayyab Manzoor (BCE). Team was led by Mr. Khurram Saleem Alimgeer, Assistant Professor, EE

The quiz comprised of questions from Power electronics, Signals and systems, Calculus, Communications, and current events.

Participating Universities were COMSATS Institute Of Information Technology, National University of Science and Technology, Bahria University, International Islamic University, Riffah International University, Air University and Military College of Signals.



Swat Calls !

The COMSATS family has always given a helping hand whenever it was needed for the country. Whether it was the earthquake in 2005, or the current situation in Swat, Dir and other northern areas, Comsatians have always been generous in donations and devoted in volunteer work. Considering the worsening situation today in these areas and the plight of hundreds of thousands of people leaving their homes, faculty and students of CIIT teamed up to help them.

Many of these displaced people are currently living in camps. These people left everything behind and have come here with their families including women, children and the elderly. As Pakistanis it is our prime responsibility to look after them in this time of great need. In this regard, a 4-day camp was arranged in Chak-Shahzad campus for collection of donations from 13th to 16th May 2009. Total collections during these 4 days were Rs. 142,000/-. From this amount, everyday items like flour, ghee, sugar, salt, rice, milk powder, tea packets, biscuits, soap, plates, jugs and medicines like ORS, methadone and paracetamol were purchased. These items were made into packages for 75 families.

The campaign team members from faculty were Syed Tauqeer Haider (EE), Abrar Ahmed (EE), Bakhtiar Ali (EE), Wasim Haider (Biosciences), Afraz Ahmad Raja (Biosciences) and Tahir Abbas (Biosciences) and from students, Shahid Ali (BSB 6TH), M.Shahid Khan (BSB 2ND), Atif Noor (BSB 4TH), Baz Muhammad (BET 5TH), Kamal Shah (BET 5TH), Faisal Naeem (BET 6TH), Usman Khan (BET 6TH) and Salman Ameen (BET 6TH).

Rather than going to camps which are already being supported by government organizations, NGO's and other people, a small village "Takkar" about 15 km from Mardan was selected. There were about 125 families from Swat, Dir and Bunair, who were living in the Govt. school buildings of. Initially they were supported by the villagers but then they had to go to the main camps in Mardan 15 km away to get eatables for their families. The CIIT's food packages were distributed to these families. Rs. 4,500 was given to those who could not receive the packages.

But seeing the rising numbers of displaced people, this effort is not enough, despite generous donations from all over Pakistan, there are still many families without any support. Let us join hands in helping them. Donate as much as you can!

Swat calls!

Have you answered?



INSPIRATORIAM

Life is odd. It has its way of reflecting differently on each one of us. I remember being overwhelmed with awe when I first stepped in CIIT. It had a lot to offer: friends, new company and of course knowledge. But I had no idea I would see even a more touching site by meeting strong and unintimidating individuals like Sir Ghayur.

Spectrum of life is filled with all sorts of people, each being unique and different. But out of these millions of people around us, there are some whose life-stories touch us deeply and sometimes they have the power to change the way we look at life. Sometimes a mere glimpse or a slight glance is enough to tell what a person is.

As a new entrant in university I was used to fearful visages of people hanging in group to find bait to ridicule on. But what caught me by surprise was that I saw; a bunch of guys hustling to get past the pavement, hovering down and chatting incessantly. It did strike my curiosity what they were doing but as they reached the few stairs to cross. It is then I noticed It was their friend on wheelchair and they lifted him smoothly, probably jostling there way to next class.

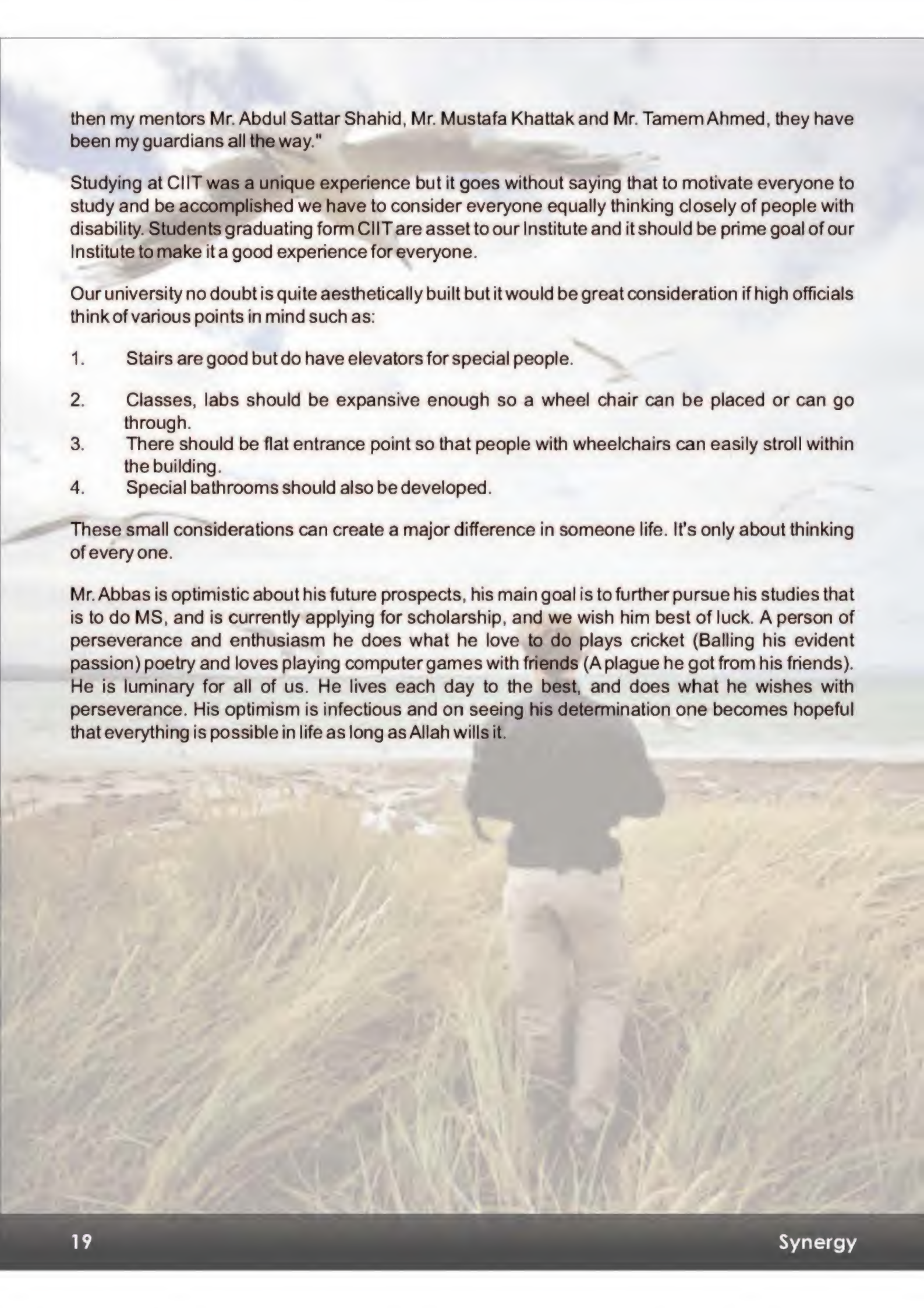
The person in wheelchair was Mr. Syed Ghayur Abbas, who once was student at CIIT and now a faculty member at the Computer Science Department. A lively personality who is fond of perils and knows how to face them, is embodiment of courage. Courage - not to feel disabled but to live life to the fullest. His journey to this position was not an easy one, born and bred in Dera Ghazi Khan his itinerary to CIIT Islamabad was short from easy. After passing ICS from Divisional public School & College did he decided to come to Islamabad.

Away from family and friends life in CIIT hostel was a struggle, from the structure of the rooms, high unreachable shelves and a lot of stairs, everything around him looked cumbersome. But with good friends he was able to face the problems with ease. All his problems vanished in thin air because of his friends' extensive support in helping him to come to university, taking him to classes. As humble as he is; he dedicates his Degree to his Family especially his parents and friends, Waqas Aziz, Jahanzeb, Raja Abrar, Ahsan, Nuaman, Waseem, Zil-e-Husnain.

Through his experience one can state that good friendship can reform lives. Helping others eventually helps to grow oneself as a good person. But the true greatness is in the people who accredit others for their help. CIIT for Mr. Abbas was a place that embraced him with open arms. Apart from his friends, as he stated, "I can't ever be able to thank enough to, Mr. Nadeem-udin-Qureshi for being considerate enough to keep all my classes on ground floor, Rector Sahib and



Syed Ghayur Abbas with editors Keezia, Saadia and Shams



then my mentors Mr. Abdul Sattar Shahid, Mr. Mustafa Khattak and Mr. Tamem Ahmed, they have been my guardians all the way."

Studying at CIIT was a unique experience but it goes without saying that to motivate everyone to study and be accomplished we have to consider everyone equally thinking closely of people with disability. Students graduating from CIIT are asset to our Institute and it should be prime goal of our Institute to make it a good experience for everyone.

Our university no doubt is quite aesthetically built but it would be great consideration if high officials think of various points in mind such as:

1. Stairs are good but do have elevators for special people.
2. Classes, labs should be expansive enough so a wheel chair can be placed or can go through.
3. There should be flat entrance point so that people with wheelchairs can easily stroll within the building.
4. Special bathrooms should also be developed.

These small considerations can create a major difference in someone life. It's only about thinking of every one.

Mr. Abbas is optimistic about his future prospects, his main goal is to further pursue his studies that is to do MS, and is currently applying for scholarship, and we wish him best of luck. A person of perseverance and enthusiasm he does what he love to do plays cricket (Balling his evident passion) poetry and loves playing computer games with friends (A plague he got from his friends). He is luminary for all of us. He lives each day to the best, and does what he wishes with perseverance. His optimism is infectious and on seeing his determination one becomes hopeful that everything is possible in life as long as Allah wills it.

Hustle - Loyalty - Respect

HUSTLE – LOYALTY - RESPECT. Though John Cena is one person we all secretly crave to meet. It is amazing how people, equally strong and determined, go unnoticed and are taken for granted when they walk among us with similar ideology. The worst part is that because we are used to seeing huge dramas, the truth just keeps on skipping our eyes. We, the Synergy Team, took the liberty of interviewing all such people who could help open our eyes and aid us to see the facts as they are, so that we could become better humans after doing so. Here are our few inspirational figures:

Nerves of iron and a heart of gold Kamal Zafar is one person who will remind you of the “hustler” (struggler) that we so often get to hear about. A student of FA-07 BS (CS) at CIIT Johar Campus, he is strong and determined to make the most out of his life. At a tender age of three, Kamal Zafar, was victimised by Polio and the after effects led him to Al-Farabi School of Special Children. His mother's utmost efforts, his own diligence and a complete support system consisting of friends, family and teachers, gave him the strength to polish his skill set in the form of a usual person leading an extra ordinary life. The simplest reality of his life is that he wakes up every day to prove himself the best and to take the next step to success.

At Al-Farabi, he stood first in his class till 8th grade. That was when he joined IMCB where his success story continued – as he managed to be shifted from evening classes to morning on merit basis. Brilliance shone through out his educational career as he scored remarkable grades in Secondary School exams and High Secondary School exams. At school and college level, he also participated in various co-curricular activities and won prizes and appraisals from the likes of Junaid Jamshed and Tehmina Doltana. Oozing with confidence he entered COMSATS to inspire an auditorium filled with guests by scoring the highest in a class of a hundred plus students as the first position holder of his FA-07 batch.

But these are not the only qualities that inspired us to write about him. We write this article to bring out his courageous and dynamic side in front of our readers so we can all learn from his example. If asked what we would like to have changed in the university, so it becomes exactly according to our needs we will spill out centuries of troubles and grudges to show how much we are suffering and the extent of our vulnerability. Astounding however the experience of asking Kamal about the things he would like to have changed for his ease (for example the stair case). It was by far a legitimate question because we thought that nothing in COMSATS favours him.

He answered, “***it is tough to climb up the stairs but I manage it by going slowly***” he also added “I am fine with the way things are because I believe in struggle; with out which one can get nowhere.”

This was an answer enough to compel us to rethink our own ungrateful attitudes and analyse the degree of gratitude this person has in him. Where do we stand when we compare our selves to him? Kamal was of the opinion that had he been gifted with a normal life, he would have been a step closer to his destiny. He also thought that the ones who have it all and do not realize their fortune and capacity and are actually going to repent on the aftermath of their current doings.

Putting it all in a nutshell, Kamal accepted the fact of having a slight problem and moved on. He is still going strong; nothing it seems can deter his will and nothing on earth can stop him from getting where he wants to go because he is strong, humble and faithful to his life. Indeed, his exemplary personality is our pride and having him among us, motivates us all to become better human beings.

A Ride Through the Reality of Life

It has taken me a long time to finally write this review on my experience at COMSATS University. To me, these four years have been four eons. My feelings about the time I've spent at COMSATS have always been mixed and complicated. It has been more of a roller coaster ride instead of a smooth sailing. A ride which has had its highs and lows and has taught me not only the purpose of life, but the nature of the world itself.

The four years that I've spent at university have been truly life changing, although looking back; I wish I could have planned them better.

So, as someone whose university life has taught her more outside the classroom instead of inside, I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you a few thoughts, focusing primarily on the extracurricular activities.

The first semester was real fun and I enjoyed a lot, I suppose it was because I was unaware of the consequences of all the fun I was having. Throughout my life, I had not been in a situation where I had unrestricted independence; so the change, to me, seemed more than pleasant. But then again there was no one to guide me. I was unaware of the harsh realities of life, realities like the fact that people have covered themselves with a sugary façade, hiding the real venomous self which reveals itself whenever one's need is dire. As time passed, troubles started rolling in, in the shape of social problems. Friends transformed into foes, hatred and regrets accompanied me everywhere. I was extremely unhappy and unsatisfied with my life in the university till the third year. I used to hate COMSATS and blame everyone else for what ever had gone wrong.

BUT then I began to realize how much I had learned through all this. The phrase that fits here is: If you mess up, it's not your parent's fault, so don't whine about your mistakes — learn from them. Like any human being, I made some unintentional and unplanned mistakes but the fact that I've learned from them and have emerged a much stronger person has mitigated all my regrets. Now, finally I think I am thankful to COMSATS for giving me a ride through the reality of life. The most important thing that university life has taught me is "Life is not fair- get used to it!"

I've learned how to deal with people and judge them as well. I'll not say that I love each and every thing about COMSATS but the part I love about it is that it has taught me the pros and cons of life. The strictness and ignorance of the teachers at times was intolerable but then again it taught me how to handle situations by myself and become independent. It taught me how to take responsibility of my own actions. I suppose they (teachers) did it on purpose to help me learn all this... but I give them the credit of all that I have learned.

As I have said that my life has entirely changed over the past four years and I am thankful to COMSATS to help me become a stronger person. So before I enter into my practical life, I can plan it so as not to repeat the mistakes that I had made earlier, mistakes that were a direct consequence of being unaware of the nature of the 'Real World'.

Apart from all the learning, COMSATS has exposed me to some amazing people; people who've been friends in the true sense of the word. So I dedicate this article to my friends Nasr, Mariam, Sana, Shahmeer, Ali and Faizan.

Mariam Akhtar
BS(BA)-Hons

Who are better Boys or Girls?

A Discussion

Of the many tricky and unanswerable questions in this world, the trickiest one perhaps would be the one I set out to answer! "Who are better boys or girls?"

Who better to ask but the people concerned — yup boys and girls themselves. With this in mind I gathered a group of boys and girls from my class and other departments and put the question to them. The discussion had hardly begun that an accusation was hurled my way, "This discussion will never be a fair one, because you are a boy, you will obviously think boys are better than us" — protested Rukham. Soon their views began pouring in and they were at each other's throats, short of pulling each others eyes out.

What was I to do; I needed to get an honest answer to this important question. It meant so much to the girls and boys gathered around me. So I decided that the best way to go about it was to ask them turn by turn. Seems fair enough! Instead of doing the usual thing, that was to let the ladies go first, we let the boys have their turn. Young gentlemen first!

Boys felt they were far superior to girls because they were brave and didn't scream on seeing lizards or cockroaches nor did they weep when they saw touchy Indian movies. "See, the armed forces are full of brave men who protect our nation," said Zaigham. He also claimed that boys were stronger and not like girls who were skinny and delicate. "Men have built all the monuments and buildings there are in this world. Men can lift such heavy weights; imagine my sister lifting 400 pounds! If girls had to take part in sports and work as hard as boys do, they would faint and end up on the stretcher," he proudly added.

Boys believed they made better persons as they busied themselves in sports instead of talking over the phone and gossiping mean things about their friends. They felt they were honest and not silly like the girls who could get away with anything by being sweet! Imran swore that his sister did nothing but saying yak, yak, yak while he helped his mother by running errands. "She talks only about clothes and make up, she is so vain. I wish I had a brother," he lamented.

"Girls are so fussy they have hazaar nakhras. My cousin Naila won't come out in the day as it would spoil her complexion. Have you ever heard about anything this ridiculous?" laughed Salman.

This was enough for the girls. Just then Ilam sniggered, "Boys stink so much they would need two buckets of deodorant to smell normal". Well, we all laughed. I was guilty of laughing with the girls but I solemnly explained that there wasn't any room for exaggerations. So they adopted a more serious tone. "Boys are mean and violent I have seen them bully kids and be cruel to animals," said Natasha. "We help out with the house work but these boys just hang out with their friends." Saima pointed out. Boys were also accused of having only muscles and no brains. Girls felt boys were poor in their studies and always did untidy work at school while their work was appreciated by their teachers. They were more likely to be punished than the girls.

Girls found the boys ill mannered, disobedient and boorish "They are always getting into fights. We girls never shout like hooligans, you will never hear of a fight between two gangs of girls. We are much better than boys because we act civilized," was Anam's wise observation.

Ahsan was squirming in his seat wanting to say something important. He pointed out, if girls were so civilized and so good at studies why did the boys always get better jobs, all the bosses were men! They were in powerful positions in every field. "If girls were truly better than us why were they secretaries and not the bosses?" Hmmm...

The girls began to think about this, "Simple," said Marium, "because we live in Pakistan, an Asian

country, in most western countries there are women who are at the top positions". She was right our culture restricted women to certain roles, and offered only a limited nature of jobs. Nazish believed that despite the unequal treatment many women had succeeded in reaching the top. It wasn't that girls were incapable, but they just weren't allowed.

What was I to do? Their arguments were very real and both had logically analyzed the virtues and flaws of their counterparts. I needed to find another viewpoint.

This search got me to their teachers who I felt would definitely be able to help me by giving their opinion. Their opinion was unanimous — they felt, both boys and girls make good students till middle school, until then their study habits were identical.

Ma'am Nosheen said, "There are good boys and mischievous boys, studious girls and dreamy girls. However, on reaching high school girls were more committed and generally performed better, this was because boys were given more freedom and allowed to take part in more outdoor and extra curricular activities as compared to girls, especially in our culture".

According to their opinion girls made better students on the whole. But it wouldn't be fair to take academic performance as the criteria to decide who were better! The question wasn't answered satisfactorily.

I had to keep looking.

The search for the answer took me to a group of people who knew the boys and girls like nobody else did. Yes, you guessed right — mums and dads.

When I put this question to parents most parents said it would be unfair to their children if they would name either.

Ahsan and Rafia's mum said she loved her son and daughter just as much and could never favor one over the other. She said Ahsan hated staying at home and spent more time with his friends than concentrating on his studies. Nevertheless his pranks were endearing and he would come up with jokes to cheer her up whenever she felt low. On the other hand Rafia's was an emotional support and a great help around the house.

Salman and Fahad's dad revealed that while Salman was good at studies Fahad's mischief gave him sleepless nights. The boys made him very angry at times, so I asked him if he would like to exchange his troublesome boys for two docile girls. He said he would think about it.

Mums and dads seemed to find no difference between their sons and daughters.

Boys and girls were equal in the eyes of their parents. They are also equal in the eyes of God although it seems He has planned special characteristics and roles for both of them. He made men strong so that they would be able to work hard and support their families; He gave women a loving nature to be able to nurture their children. But He doesn't favor one over the other. Boys and girls, who would be the men and women of the future, were like the dual forces of Yin and Yang. They are interconnected and couldn't truly exist without each other. Their distinct natures compliment each other and are equally important for each other.

But if these detailed arguments still haven't convinced you, then may be this simple one will: my cute 85-year-old grandma used to say that girls and boys are like two halves of a laddoo, both halves are equally sweet. Ladka ladki ek jaisay meethien hote hain. How sweet!

Shehryar Imtiaz
Editor, BCE

Baghdad Al Jadeed

an "alternate" history...

Today Ayad al-Nasr takes oath as the 167th "elected" caliph of the United States of Arabia. This could have been possible as the critics "always" say, if Hulaku Khan -the leader of invading Mongols and the grandson of Genghis Khan- hadn't died "unexpectedly" during the siege of Baghdad in 1258 AD. But whatever they say this didn't happen of course. Didn't it? But Mongol raids were in one sense a blessing in disguise; they destroyed each and every opposition of the caliph's crippled sultanate and thus paving way for it to become a regional power later on.

Now back to the Nine-o'clock-news-bulletin tone, the caliph has already mentioned in his last Jumma-day (Friday according to EU standards) press conference that he and his government's headquarters will finally be move to Baghdad Al-Jadeed and the old Royal palace would become a part of the Baghdad's renowned Grand Library and University Complex -which already covers a quarter of the old Baghdad city. Construction of the new capital was completed during the reign of the late caliph Mehmood Al-Aadil and is situated 30 km north of the old Baghdad near the Al-Beroni Space Center.

As per old traditions, the newly elected caliph would enter the new city "without" any fanfare (The awesome march past of 313 elite and 1000 other Caliph guards, shouting slogans and beating drums cannot be counted as fanfare "officially"). But then in the evening a three day banquet or the Royal Dastar'khaan would be started for each and every one of us to eat, drink and be merry. And why shouldn't we? The last decade has been full of achievements for all the citizens of USA (United States of Arabia). Starting with the first manned flight to make an orbit around Mars and thus making our three Khila-Nauwrds or astronauts, the first Martians. The people in all of our cities especially Baghdad, Najaf, Basra, and even in our neighbouring sub-states celebrated the "return of the Martians" (not to be confused with the last year's horror film of the same name which won five Al-Oscaria awards in Al-wood-el-Holy film festival).

Next was the completion of the Basra World Trade Center with its five towers standing as high as the pride of our nation. Next in the line was where the 2004 XXVIII Dubai Olympics, where our athletes won a quarter of all medals and thus securing the top position on the points table. In the next year the border conflict with the European Union was a bit depressing but the possibility of a war ended after the successful no-war-agreement signed in the city of Istanbul between the two governments and then the success-wagon moved on. Within a year and a half, our brethren were climbing Mount-Everest and wining the Cross Sahara car rally. Tennis player Maria ul-Shara won the Al-Wimbledononia Tennis cup in the next year as well. But to outshine them all, renowned writer and poet Saeed al-Hashmi won the An-Nobel Inaam for Literature, last year for the second time! With all these achievements on the board and more to follow, it seems obvious that Halaku Khan hadn't made a mistake by dying unexpectedly right on the siege-night. (Our dear critics now must have to find another story to prey upon.)

Mehdi Abbas
Department of EE

Specious Beauty

Behind this innocence, beneath this fair skin;
Is a sleeping lioness, whose beauty is oddly dim.

She has an ambition to impose excruciating pain;
Then drag the victim to insanity and mundane.

She seeks revenge and dwells on envy;
She loathes love and finds harmony filthy.

If she could, she would numb chuck any one;
Who would talk about her surreptitiously.

Eyes ablaze, heart a darkened package;
Cautiously observing her next best target.

She lets herself burn in the flames;
Of eternal hatred and heartbreaking games.

Tongue so venomous reminds of snakes on a mound;
Slithering and sizing prey on the cold autumn ground.

She is my alter ego and resides within;
My heart, my soul, my body and skin.

My terror waxes when she stirs in her sleep;
The menace has conflagrating cruelty at its peak.

Kiren Nazar
Editor, BBA

A black and white photograph of three lit candles. The candle in the foreground is in sharp focus, showing its flame and the texture of the wax. The two candles in the background are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth. The flames are bright and steady.

Candles

If you blow out all candles in my eyes,
If you freeze all the kisses on my lips,
If you nail my eyes to humiliation,
O! Enemy of mankind I will not compromise,
And to the end I shall fight!

Nadia Sarfaraz
BET

Teenage and Smoking

Teenage is the best phase a boy or a girl experiences. It's the time when everyone destines and fashions their own future and profession. Life at this stage is free, joyful and smiley!

This age has many positive and negative aspects especially in this modern and egoistic time of world. Nowadays, teenagers are more indulged in crimes than the adults. I actually want to emphasize on smoking which is much more common in teenagers than any other phase of life. Now if you ask them why do you do so when you know it is injurious to health... they'd surely reply "To lessen up the tensions we have on our minds, to get relief" or else they'd say "I do because all my friends do it and I don't want to be called an 'MDC' (Mummy Daddy child)!! Urghh!! These mind rusting answers really make me mad and wild! First of all, how can you get relief when you are taking in such injurious thing, with such an awful smell and unhygienic sight? If you talk about the tensions then to be honest, most of the problems are created by ones own self. When one puts up with the things their parents had asked them to refrain from. And after all the mess is created, we regret over our destinies!

Do you have an ounce of idea how harmful and how disastrous a cigarette is to your life? Smoking especially in teenagers is the potential threat of causing lung cancer. The chances of lung cancer are ten times more in those who smoke than in a normal person. Recent research indicates that tobacco smoke equals more than ten compound of tar and it apparently favors lung cancer.

Well not only this but smoking also causes Emphysema which is nothing but the break down of alveoli in your lungs. The substances present in the tobacco smoke, weaken the wall of alveoli. This causes coughing which reduces the surface area due to which the person cannot oxygenate his blood properly. Emphysema produces increased airway resistance because the bronchioles are obstructed as a result of inflammation and damaged bronchioles collapse during expiration!!

Smoking reduces five minutes from your life....ooh! You chain smokers my message is especially for you! 'Don't you people love your life? Do you really want to die at such a tender age and make your parents shed blood tears! You are entering a new phase of life, heading for a professional life, aiming to lead a prosperous life so do you really want to enter with such defected health, infected lungs and disorder immune system!

Most of you might take my message as a laughing stock and might be thinking that I am a crack-pot... Surely I am, why do I care about you people; why not see you dying before you enter your 20's! Because I am not an egoistic person like all of you addicted to it. Learn to live for others. You won't know now but later in the future because of this disease many other infections will catch your body like a fire! One infection would initiate the other and you'd be in immense loss!

Secondly those who have the fear of being called MDC then to you guys my only word is "You are the most dumbest creation landed on earth" and the little thing you are deprived off is only a five lettered word "FAITH".

Instead of correcting others, you are becoming a part of their filth. Is this what you call maturity? When you are not even aware of what is good and what is bad for you! If you people are really mature than abstain from such barbarous act, come out of the evil of society. Don't become your own enemy, no one will save you from yourself. Waken your conscious and take life as a responsibility and not a burden... Share things with your buddies if you are that fed up instead of being a danger to your own self by smoking. Those out there if you still do what is ill for you then you are not worth being called a mature person indeed you'd be the most ignorant specie of Lord!

Amina Tariq
BBA

CHANGE

People are telling
And my soul is also yelling
Now I am not what I used to be
I myself cannot; find the real me in me
What a sudden change is this
My heart has lost its merriment and bliss
I have changed but not a lot
Because if wants, can still spot
That my eyes are still filled with naive dreams
Still when I do ill, my inner screams
But now I am going to bring up a person really new
In whom the things people don't like are a few

Keezia Haseeb,
Editor, BBA

Start Thinking About YOURSELF

What is he/she thinking about me???
Am I looking good???
What's running in his/her mind???
Are these clothes matching me???

Are these not the usual questions in our minds when we are coming to the university every morning? For most of us it is unfortunately YES!

We sometime start caring more than required of what others are thinking of us. Our SELF WORTH starts moving like an elevator in a sky scrapper. We usually forget who we are and what we should be. As a result we end up being confused in deciding what we wanted to be and how to behave because we are always looking for approval from others becoming what we really are not.

What can you do? Start from things that you like about yourself rather than others. The better you understand your qualities and accomplishments the less vulnerable and concerned you will be towards external approval or disapproval. It can be very easy to forget our qualities; which most of us have done. And we remember only our mistakes and harming words that others have used on us. So the best way, I suggest is keep a journal start collecting the best compliments that you have received, some of your accomplishments and acts of kindness to others. For sure this will help you recognize yourself better and give you self confidence.

Keep reminding yourself, that you can receive criticism or disapproval for many reasons. Those reasoning may even have nothing to do with you. Like you the may be misunderstood, or they themselves may be insecure or disapproved from someone else. They can find you as their competitor or may just lash out in response at you from their very own problems, because you'll be there. Try killing the habit of feeling hurt or down before you've even stop to think if the received criticism is true. (Mostly criticisms aren't true or are just partially true!) Even if the criticism is true remind yourself that you tried your level best, try harder next time, and let go of it.

Have your own codes of honor and please take pride in yourself when you live the life that you have decided to live! Having a clear vision of what you want to be as a person, gives you power to protect yourself from making poor decisions to get approval of other's.

Each day we all have a better opportunity to come closer to a pure and healthy self esteem. For sure all this can't be accomplished in a day or two. This is a gradual change, keep reminding yourself of your qualities, your very own inner strength and the person you want to be. Always think and be positive in whatever job, work or project you have decided to go for. Try being more self confident which will for surely help you feel better and help you accomplish difficult tasks. These simple things can improve your mood and happiness more than you can even imagine. Think of more and more reasons to feel good about yourself each day.

So uni-mates,
STOP THINKING ABOUT OTHERS;
START THINKING ABOUT YOURSELF!
Try it out!

Shaikh M. Usman

Your Vote..... Your Nemesis

Geo TV's transmission of February 18 was a touchstone for an Eid transmission but the paradox was that it was the elections which were being celebrated. Certainly a feast for a fan's eyes it was, who had long clamored over the absence of 'demo(auto)cracy'. Reema Ji, Meera Ji, Resham Ji, and Iman Ali sat face to face with a hostess who seldom gives her guests a chance to speak.

Unfortunately for the large proportion of Pakistanis who thought the sun had finally come out of the clouds. It was just a momentarily deviation from what was really happening or was going to happen. Not only the innocent audiences were completely lost in the ad infinitum epic gala of invisible swordplay by our beauty queens, they also forgot that just outside their homes 'the Armageddon' was being fought.

It was during a very short break when I flipped over to another channel and saw an earnest, "hardly-willing-to-get-out-of-her-twenties" aunty, speaking of a national social responsibility; a trust bestowed upon the citizens of Pakistan. Sounds familiar? Doesn't it?

Pakistan has always been crushed by ironies: irony of fate, irony of leadership, irony of terror, irony of politics and even irony of steel mills. Isn't it an irony when you are asked to choose one among many angel-faced devils, as your godfather? Insult is added to injury when you are scolded over not having expressed your opinion and are honored with every right to remain silent for the next five years? Ah...this reminds me that I stayed all day long at my home on the eve of the said day forgetting that even I have a NIC with a zombie's picture bearing my name....I didn't cast my vote to any of the potential leaders. How fateful? Fitful indeed!

And now am I supposed to have no right to criticize the ones who did cast their vote, and what they have imposed over us by their own will of democracy? Just talking about us, I am reminded of US (touché!)...after all it is us, whom our well wishers worry for.

The other day I was having a useless conversation with my youngest sister whose only political query ever was regarding the whereabouts of a female politician (you can guess) and just for a moment we discussed the validity of the statement: Vote is a sacred trust granted to the nation. And we argued that replacing vote by the word leader was equally good and closer to reality. After all we vote for our leader, we bring our leader into authority, and we bestow our leader to lead our lives with his or her will, and we even pay huge taxes for the welfare of our leader. So doesn't this make leader the synonym of democracy?

The recent energy and food crisis has sent shocking waves all across the nation or I must say 'it has shocked the nation indeed'. There is so much suffering and an accelerating frustration that I believe the day is very near when the common masses will come out on roads and will dance to the song Marhaba exactly the same way as in Jodhaa Akbar! Speaking of which, I am recalled about how poor Pakistan's image is being portrayed in the world. Everyday I flip through many of our local channels who are clamoring over a virtual doom that has engulfed our country. But exactly what caused it? Why should they tell us for it is the job of international media to tell us Pakistanis; that our country is flourishing militants in its folds, that our country is a symbol of terror, that only our nuclear program is a threat to the peace loving nations, that our religion is a cult arising mayhem. And the dilemma is: we believe them. Nevertheless I believe it's not our fault. We on our places are sacrificing everything to lead a stable life despite pressure from every dimension and it's only us who have shown such resilience, and still continue to survive after decades of mistakes by our top leadership.

And believe me though I already know you won't, the only patriot we have, who is burning all the oil in her lamps to get Pakistan recognized as a true moderate nation is THE Meera Ji, who in India and sooner in Hollywood is trying her level best to do anything for the sake of her country's glory.

See I told you, you won't believe.

Khawar Naeem
Editor In-chief, Synergy 2007
Graduate – 2007 (BET)

Fashion at CIIT

What actually is fashion? Well anything that is carried by an individual with comfort and ease is fashion. It is as simple as that, but the Mademoiselles at COMSATS give a one eighty degree twist in accordance to there own provisions and level of thinking. If you even commit the crime of asking a lassie abut fashion, she'll reply bashfully, "Kareena, Ashwariya an Rani nai jo pehan hua wa hai who he fashion ha!" Well who can blame them, when you enter the campus they are after all wearing the same clothes but with a dash of there own convenient touch; least bit worried about how they are looking.

Yes there is great variety to see: from the not so delicate pre-Madonna, the extremely extroverted lassies and the introvert dames. As I mentioned before fashion is all about how you carry yourself with confidence and grace that reflects your comfort in what you clad you embrace. Well some Señorita's should be given a standing ovation for there display of courage, even if she has the complexion matched to that of a kaali kastoori she wont stand behind in the stride of fashion and will still wear the eye piercing bright yellow. She will surely turn some heads around; if not to catch the glimpses of her beauty, but with respect to answering the question in mind, as to what the hell was she thinking when she got up this morning!

Then there come the ever daring healthy bajian, who don't fret over wearing tiiiiight jeans over there carefully nurtured assets. No Sir! The Pakistani gal of today is living by the motto of, "There is nothing impossible", after all if they're joining the forces then this isn't an uphill task for them.

The other dreadful era that our university recently passed through was that of the "Patialla's ". It seemed as if the gals were floating on hot air balloons of vibrant multitudinous colors. In that entire buzz they overlooked various facts and whole heartedly abused stern fabrics like cotton, linen and lawn for this purpose.

Coming to the Duppatta's inevitable part of Shalwar Kameez, this is supposed to be utilized to cover our heads and body. But it taken as an embellishment, adorned with one of the most expensive laces. For some it proves a great hindrance in there daily routine as it lays mostly half way down on the ground, sweeping away the dust with this handy duster. Maybe these gals possess enormous amount of respect for the janitors at CIIT and feel, it is there social responsibility to pitch in a hand of help to lower there burden.

Then lastly we come to make up, what wonder it does to ones face is startling only problem is one has to make a lot of round trips to washroom. Again and again to the extent that if one makes a trip to washroom one can witness girls applying heavy duty application of makeup. The difference is strikingly visible after third period when makeup gets mutilated. When you hand over a bag to a strange looking girl standing next to you in bathroom it suddenly dawns on you by her, Yar! What are you doing I am your class fellow, "Didn't you recognize me?" Then you realize that beauty lies only skin deep. Otherwise one is fooled easily.

The aim of writing this articles in such a critical way is not at all to discourage the gals but just to tell them that overdoing anything never looks fashionable. "Simplicity" is in and always will be. Now how to make simplicity fashionable is in your hands. Never forget, following the bandwagon is never the answer. Standing distinctively with grace is what is most difficult in life and is mostly recommended. Now it is time for you to make your

STYLE Statement!!!

**Mona M. Aftab
BBA**

Ways to appear Cool

Many, who went to school as one of the "not-so-cool" people, spend much of their adult lives trying to become the cool kid they have always wanted to be at school. They go out and buy anything that can make people think they are cool, instead of rationalizing their choices of buying certain things and leaving out the rest. Here are few such pointers according to some wanna-be's:

Mobiles: The very first to which people can be attracted is mobile according to such people. They think that having a cool cell of a good company with new and extra features and of a latest model can make you look cool and attract people's attention.

Bikes and cars: The second thing people do to try to improve their image is to buy a sports car or a sport bike, because some people see these things as status symbols. And someone who can afford that kind of status must be cool.

Clothes: Many people like to spend lots of money on the latest fashions, to help them improve their image, personality. Thinking that by doing this people will find them interesting and attractive because they know what is the new stuff to wear.

Music: People who are looking to improve their image in certain social groups will spend their time finding out which music is "hip" and will adopt that music as their favorite, in an attempt to make others think they are cool. And the most interesting thing is that most of them don't even understand the lyrics of most songs they hear day in day out.

Accessories: Many people think that if you want to be cool you must have lots of gold and silver. But for the most part these people spend thousands on these pieces of jewelry that makes them look stupid.

The Gym: In the past 10 years the gym has become a new modish spot. And if you want to be cool you have to be seen at the gym, that does not mean you have to exercise. It is usually simple to notice the people that are at the gym to work out and those who are there just to try to look cool. The second group can be found in the lobby, at the juice bar, sitting at the back of an aerobics class watching others work out.

However, being cool is not about what you have or listen to. It is, in fact, all about who you are. At school being cool was about being popular, but this is not the case once you have grown up. As; what most adults see as cool is concerned with genuineness, and doing what you want to do rather than what everyone else does. Those who are considered to be cool are usually leaders not followers.

The word cool is not about having a dire need for just being it, on the contrary it is about not caring what other people think and living life to its fullest, by doing this you will find others with the same interests and together with these people you will be able to portray a good self-image.

So I guess the key to being cool is just to make friends with people who enjoy the same things as you and during the process you will find that as your self image increases your need for being cool will decrease. Then finally you will have achieved "cool-dom"...if there is such a term that is!

Akif Ali BBA 4

Having a car and Carrying it...?

Having a car and carrying it in a unique way is an art. Different people carry their car in their own way. People believe, adding accessories to their cars would give them exceptional look. They focus on the exterior look of the car and all those utilities to apply which are running in trend; in short .They are in a rat race to compete with their friends, relatives and colleagues. So that they can receive due compliments of carrying their car in an outstanding way. For me model and make of the car is pivotal rather than the extra utilities that embedded on it. Overly accessorized car create a chafing irritation within me. I usually call such gaudy cars as taxis, as most of the taxi drivers decorate their cars with their own sense of aesthetics.

Some people have a very shallow relationship with their cars that they don't even bother to show contemplation about the parts of their beloved car. I often watch cars on road creating disturbance, and providing a spectacle for the drivers of other cars on road. These people who are least concerned about their cars speak derisively about people who ornate their cars with trendy accessories. It's enough for them that they are blessed with a CAR.

Some people fall so deeply in love with their cars, that they do not want to use their baby. They park their beloved car in the garage, and themselves bear the hardship by traveling either through local transport or begging there respectable friends to provide pick and drop services. Their love for cars is so sincere that they do not want their cars moving on road. But sometimes they break the promise and take out their car on road, though this event occurs only on occasions. This is one way of carrying a car.

Sometimes people are not afraid of taking their cars on road, but their love for car takes on another way. They apply strict regulations on there passengers, prohibiting any eatables in the car especially with kids. This attitude causes horror to those who have to make roundabout trips to there in-laws, for some it is particularly a very long irritating journey. They are afraid of having strong odor of the eatables embedded in their seat covers. My father used to do it when I was kid, but we have finally "persuaded" him to change his rules.

When ever I pass by a parking lot, the assorted number of cars parked there a source of keen interest for my observation. Seeing the condition of somebody's car can give you clues about his or her personality just like face reading. I always analyze how the owner has kept his/her car. One's car is a reflective image of one's.

No one in this world would be without a wish of having high-quality, superior, excellent, admirable, tremendous, highly advanced sort of a car. But resources limit the wishes, and every one should be happy on having remarkable blessings by God. I am not fond of having either an antique-on-wheels car or the latest elite model car. Instead, I prefer to have a clean car. Actually, I have passion for immaculately CLEAN CARS. Everyone's parents' wants to provide the best, to their kids and they also try to fulfill the wishes of their children. But I don't want them to spend money on servicing the car. My parents gave me a car. That more then enough. So I make sure that no extra expenditures come up. I clean my car, as regularly as I can. My car can be coated with of dust or dirt from outside during bad weather but no one can find my car filthy from inside. I haven't applied lots of things to make it attractive and trendy; its is simply "simple", it's not adorned like a Taxi, but no one can ever claim that my car stinks or provide with an unhealthy feeling. Its not that I very seldom use my car, my car is my life and plays a central role in managing my life. From going to university to performing all the daily chores like picking grocery and often I have to pick and drop my lovely little nieces, who would never sit in the car without any snacks. I have never put any sanction on them while riding my car; instead I have developed habit of cleaning up the mess later.

I love my car because it's simple, comfy, dirt free and has a fresh feel. And why it shouldn't be? I may be spending quarter of my working day on the driving seat when it comes to being busy.

Sana Munir
BBA

Life at the Cost of Marriage

Is it better to marry or to remain a bachelor? We are no more school children.... At this age we should think and give space to these questions and try to come up with some answers. At least, we should have our own opinion regarding such issues.

Those who are married tell their tales of misery and they admire the bachelors, on the other hand, bachelors hold the desire to get married as soon as they can and they admire the married one. So questions remains. Marry or not to marry? Or when to marry?

In order to have some idea we have to depend only on stories and experiences of married people. Two cousins got married, before marriage she used to call him BHAJ JAN... After marriage she called him only JAAN and BHAJ was omitted. But as time passed he became JAAN LEWA for her!!!

A friend of my elder brother also has some cold and hot experiences, as he said, "on my first meeting with my spouse to be, I kept chatting and she kept listening. After our engagement she kept talking and I was on the listening seat, after marriage we both shout and only our neighbours have to listen..... unwillingly."

Those who are married declare marriage as vehicle to acquire children and they have bundles of joy. But in this regard if they consider quality instead of quantity; I think results could be far better, now I am haunted by anecdote. Once there was a woman, with half a dozen children, who boarded a bus. I, also, was traveling in the same bus. The

Children were creating some disturbance and were making lot of noise as if they have reached the party place. Fair collector was noticing it. To this, the fair collector impatiently asked the women, "Why are you traveling with all of your children? Why don't you leave half of them at home? Women replied: "that's exactly what I did!!!"

I have another interesting incident to relate. Once there was an old feeble man who had an army of fifteen children. When I came to know, I asked him, "At this stage it would be difficult for you to remember their names?" The old man replied, "No, umph....it is not... umph...I call them by their roll numbers....."

A subscriber, who was seeking advice, asked I.S Joker a renowned film artist a question,... the subscriber was unable to decide whether to spend fund to get married or buy a radio. I.S joker in his characteristic manner advised him to buy a radio, since it will be within the power of subscriber to switch it off and on, at his own convenience.

Well, I would not recommend any thing as captain planet use to say "the power is yours". It totally depends on you but it is obvious from the fact that those who have tasted this fruit, do not want to taste it again, and those who have not, they have strong desire to experience it at least once in their life.

Dear reader, I am not making your mind to react in either way. Every action has its outcome, it depends on you whether you convert your chances into benefits or consequences, both aspects are there and should be considered before taking risky action of that nature so, it may not happen that after you give it a shot, curse me forever. I am not persuading you surely. And if you ask me the same question, I would say that as long as I am bachelor, I am sole proprietor of my life and when I would marry, my life would become partnership and after the birth of "chunnu" and "munnu" it will further transform into corporation. But gradually your responsibility increases towards your shareholders (chunnu, monnu and their mummy) as you have to look after their needs and wants. If you do not pay your liabilities you are treated as a plant of "Touch me not". Nobody bothers how many times you fade, and since you are dealing in serious business, therefore you are sole responsible for every hardship that comes in your way. Although, that (marriage) is mutual contract but who cares.....? That is the time when your life cycle reaches maximum maturity. So one always try to prolong this maturity stage by avoiding decline but unfortunately the next stage that follows is "The decline" or sunset of your life.

Therefore, as long as I am enjoying profits and other benefits as a sole proprietor, I would carry on with it. I know you would not agree with my concepts and therefore dear reader, I have got the feeling that you hold strong desire to marry so if you are bachelorgo ahead as fortune favors the brave and if you are already married.....hold on..... This article is not for you.

Syed Shams ul Hassan, Editor, BBA

Cavemen Crusades

It's like the old times again;
Watch history repeat with no eminent gain;
The wreck it's causing and the pain;
Is enough to make a normal man go insane.

No, I'm not talking about Alexander the Great;
Nor am I reviewing his "classic" crusades;
I am relating our present with the caveman days;
Amazing how we are shrinking in our ways.

We fight for oil, we fight for land;
Everyday we make a "perfect-fight-plan";
So foul proof and extremely grand;
That it results in man slaughtering man.

We all need help, we all need aid;
O' God save us from these Caveman Crusades.

Kiran Nazar
Editor, BBA

Still Slaves

While studying a book of history I felt proud to be a part of the noblest doctrine [Islam]. The great achievements made by the Muslims in the field of science, the glory of Moslem preachers and the splendor of their teachings, the grandeur of Moslem empire, the magnanimity of the Moslem monarchs and at their hands the catastrophic defeats of the rivals. Their unprecedented efforts put in the service of arts, their marvelous works of promoting culture, are a sure source of pride for me. But the other moment it flashed in my mind that along with these prideful events there are moments of darkness also.

In history, there have been great events. These events spanned hundreds of years, and trapped individuals in their implacable grip forging their character, thus leaving them a stranger for themselves. These transcendent events became the stimuli and they themselves shaped the responses. This perpetuating forgery left individuals with no free will of their own. Their behavior was now in the hands of time. These great events are thus remembered being great moments of time. Depending upon the produce of the afflicted, these events are referred to as rise and fall. If the afflicted produced well, they triumphed; the event was then a productive one. If they failed to cope with the situation they have been introduced to, they failed, and the event was then a destructive one. Long and short of it, an individual's behaviors are inhibited by the premises of time.

We, the Muslims, had been introduced to such an event. We had been controlling the reigns of this world for a very long time. Once we were the greatest rulers, our empire spanning from Arab to Europe. But this marvelous success of ours, making a great event of history started the forgery of our psychology. We were faced with a situation in which our actions would be having an everlasting impact on our coming generations. Due to the incompetence of the coming monarchs, and their inability to constrain themselves within the limits of Sharia and morality, our decline started. False notions got induced into our minds, weakness surged our bodies, and abomination entered our society. This fast pacing world perpetuated as it is but we remained static and inactive, unable to come to terms with the new world and its realities. The moment of defeat started. Other nations made use of our weaknesses and began colonizing our lands.

This very moment of pain, humiliation and disgrace once again started shaping our collective psyche. As Iqbal has said,

تھا نا جو خوب بتدرج وہی خوب ہوا
کہ غلامی میں بدل جاتا ہے قوموں کا ضمیر

We started striving for our rights, but the course of time led us to think for a new nation. We endeavored to our utmost and achieved independence. Our victory realized in the form of this very nation. But can we call ourselves independent? Yes, we are geographically independent but not psychologically. This fact is really hard to accept but to state very clearly, we are slaves still, "mental slaves". Our reins are still in the hands of those who once disgraced us. We have inherited slavery that has become a part of our very blood.

We have unconsciously become alien to our own culture: deprived to implement and practice our norms, our values, forged to induce in ourselves an adaptability to accept and exercise western values, or a manifestation of it. To name a few of the weapons used against our identity is the radio, news papers, books, various TV channels, songs, movies, and internet. And we call their better

availability to be the development of information technology infrastructure. Worse, even our Mosques and Madrasas are spreading False-Islam*. If there were any deficiencies, the enlightened moderation is there to fill in. There has been some news of encouraging acts of homosexuality in our Islamic state.

The matter of consideration here is to think why we are psychologically prone to accept such false notions. Apart from the extreme cases, a general list of some of the reasons of mental slavery is:

- ◆ Extremely incompetent educational system
- ◆ Fervid complexes (whether inferiority or superiority)
- ◆ Lack of religious education
- ◆ Lack of cultivated thinking
- ◆ Passion to gain materialistic benefits
- ◆ Certain groups working to support stereotypic ideas
- ◆ Desire to embrace the so-called modernization
- ◆ Westernized rulers (according to Imran Khan: "Maghrib-Zaadey")

Zoya Wahid in her article, "Kya Ham Azad Hen? (Are we independent?) ", in the Daily Jang (May 17, 2007) argues that we are still slaves in our own country. Our national language is Urdu but we are the slaves of English, our God is one but we are bowed in front of many superpowers, our Quran is one but we prefer to refer to many western thinkers, our very face has western reflection, we hold our elections but the results: others, we do our defense but receive foreign suggestions!

My once-teacher, Mr. Salahuddin who is the inspiration of this writing, said: "We have been trapped in the moment of defeat. The efforts of one or two single individuals will not be enough to break us free, it will require superhuman constructive effort of millions of us to steer our destiny in a new direction. That will pay, that will be breaking free from this moment of defeat that is holding us in bondage. Our survival depends on the strength of Islam. Islam is our identity, our defense, and Islam is our weapon of offence. The only way for us to fight the mental slavery is to hold firmly the Holy Quran and by acting upon Sunnah. For this purpose, all the Muslims of the world shall have to unite."

Hasnain Haider
BET

Note:

- * This is a recreation of the already published articles from various people.
- * The word "individual's" is used here to refer humans. It does not specify a single person rather to the community or the nation as a whole.
- * False Islam is the Islam of suicidal bombers, and extremists encouraging such notions originally rejected by Sharia.

Who's Games are We Playing.....?

"Hi!!! Are you on your way home?... Yes, OH! So you wanted to give me a surprise, but I am even smarter than you! As last night I came to know from your brother that you are coming to Lahore tomorrow. Anyway, you must remember the promises. Since, this time we have to have lots of fun and mojha masti, we have to visit Sozo Cinema in fortress, Wagha Border, Race Course park and a cricket match scheduled at Qaddafi stadium.....alright, alright be patient let me come first then we will plan..... No planning dude, we have already planned, we just have to comply with it now. Ok I have to GUARD the front of KATCHERI and tonight we will meet when you reach home. Have a happy and safe Journey --- ALLAH Hafiz....."

A phone conversation that took place between me and my friend Intizaar Hussain, who was anxiously waiting for me, ever since we had planned to enjoy vacations. That day the weather was fine, air was cool. My face bright my heart delighted as exams were over. Another semester had finished, tension had vanished for a while and the route to my home in Lahore was not encumbered with apprehension anymore. 20 days of mojha masti and enjoyment were coming our way, as a few friends of mine were waiting for me along with my family members whom I miss so much when I am in Islamabad.

The bus on which I was traveling was playing the movie "Major Sahib" but since I had already watched it, therefore I was not very interested nevertheless; it was good enough to kill some time. Then Usman rang me and told me that I have missed a rare but lovely snowfall in Islamabad where streets and roads were all white like Cinderella clad in white.

In one city, streets were clad in white while in another they were red: stained with blood; for the next call I received was of my younger brother who explained to me that a bomb blast had occurred in Lahore in front of the Katcheri and that is why their school had been immediately closed. He also told there rumors are that a few more blasts were expected at different locations of the city.

I cursed the suicide bomber and prayed for the departed souls who lost their lives in service of the nation. I was not totally out of the impact and influence of 27 December, 2007 when another suicide bomber had taken the life of our national leader, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Also fresh in my mind was the impact of the blast on Eid day where innocent people had lost their lives while offering Eid prayers at Sherpao's place. Year 2007 was full of such terrible and tragic chapters but what else could have I done except cursing these suicidal cowards. I failed to understand which ideology they were selling and whose game were they playing. What were and are their cheap motives behind their ill intentions and cowardly acts. These thoughts made me even more grieved and stressed. But I was unaware that something more shocking was waiting for me, something which would fill my heart with pain and eyes with tears.

As soon as I reached Lahore, stepped out of the bus and took first step on my beloved city's soil, I attended an earth rattling call from Intizar's younger brother, whose voice resembled his brother's to the extent that I mistook him for being Intizaar. After being corrected, I was informed, by his younger brother, of the terrible and mind shattering news that Intizaar is also one of the victims among others in the blast near Katcheri. He was serving there, standing on duty while the bomb went off and he died in harness.

I was speechless. I could not believe my ears; tears started trickling down my cheek. I felt dizzy as the news settled in me, I had lost my only friend who was waiting for me and I could never make it there in time; leaving me in a never-ending trauma. Both of us did our matriculation from the same school. I went to G.C., he went to Islamic college civil lines and did F.A. from there and joined

Punjab police afterwards, but this certainly was not the way to meet a terrible fate.

As God knows how many minutes passed by, I found myself wishing that I should have been in his place so I did not have to live without him. I knew the bomb had gone off. It had killed loyal men; but I could never accept the untimely demise of my only friend in this world. Its impact was so near to me, so near to my nerves. Now the air I was breathing in was just same as before but only I could inhale, my dear friend could not, I could sense, he was senseless, I could speak but his lips were sealed forever. My pulse was running but his hands were cold and calm. I could think but his thoughts have been made silent by a coward and a low minded suicide bomber. I had never felt so heavy-hearted in the entirety of my life, with a burden as much as this, on my chest.

It was the most painful incident for me and I felt as if someone had pricked my heart with a thorn. As my pain became a permanent part of me, a series of assorted thoughts formulated in my mind one after another. Needless to mention was the fact, that this episode had been surely even more painful for his parents and family. I was trying to realize and feel its intensity but the surge of tears were unstoppable...he was a person who was full of energy, full of jokes, full of plans to enjoy life always, used to share things...and then it struck! His spouse whom he loved so much, what would she be thinking? What array of grief would she be passing through? Certainly so many people are associated with a single person in a society.

Next day was his funeral and we went to offer his Namaz-e- Janaza. We all mourned over his sad, unpleasant and unexpected demise. But his parents, for whom the incident was life-taking, looked as if they were living-dead, their empty eyes gazing at the coffin, waiting for a miracle to happen. That is all a desperate man can think of, when everything else fails. They were crying over and over, standing there in disbelief and grief. It was a very painful scene to witness him being landed in his grave. The merciless soil covered every bit of him.

At the time of Fatha-khwani, words from his last phone call to me resounded very vividly... "This time when you'll come, we would visit Sozo cinema, Wahga Border, Race course park and a cricket match scheduled in Gaddafi Stadium....."His words still echoing in my ears, gave me chocks and pangs of fresh remorse. I hadn't known that this time I would only visit his grave.

My friend, I miss you so much, may we meet in next world, and may Allah rest your soul in eternal peace. Amen!

Syed Shams ul Hassan
Editor, BBA

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The purpose of life is a life of purpose

- Robert Byrne

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Magnanimity Unveiled

A tribute to the greats of our past who are stars just as substantial and radiant like others but stay unobserved due to our inattention ...

Feature of the year: Hazrat Jareer bin Abdullah (RZ)

A sermon headed by our beloved Prophet (S.A.W.) was in flow when a new-comer joined in. On his arrival heads turned to acknowledge his presence but for some reason, the gathering gazed at him with awe-inspired long looks.

Feeling a bit awkward the new comer sat beside a friend and implored with innocence the reason for the behaviour, being uncomfortably conscious about having something unusual about his appearance. The friend replied that before he entered, they were being told by the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.S) about his arrival and that in the choicest of words.

This new comer was Hazrat Jareer bin Abdullah (RZ), a citizen of Yemen. In the sermon mentioned above, the companions of Prophet (S.A.W.) were being told about Hazrat Jareer's extremely handsome looks and equally beautiful nature.

It is said that whenever a clan from Yemen came to accept Islam, Prophet (S.A.W.S) liked it if Hazrat Jareer (RZ) was present in the meeting. History has it that Hazrat Jareer (RZ) said that whenever he was to attend any such meeting, he used to attire in best of apparel and tried to look immaculate so that he could convey a positive message to the new converts. Historians narrate that when Hazrat Jareer (RZ) attended these meetings, our Holy Prophet (S.A.W.S) used to smile at him (RZ) with pride. If inferences be drawn, our Prophet (S.A.W.S)'s pride in Hazrat Jareer (RZ) clearly reflects the Almighty's pride in him (RZ). In short, Hazrat Jareer (RZ) was an icon of Islamic pride.

In those days the selection criterion for willing warriors to participate in war was to reveal the upper torso of their body to the more seasoned warriors. If the latter approved of the physique only then could a person participate. The selections were transpiring when Hazrat Jareer (RZ) walked up in front of the crowd with the willingness to fight in the way of the Almighty, and revealed his body; it would have been just a few seconds when Hazrat Ali (RZ) asked him (RZ) to put his (RZ) clothing back on adding that he had never seen a body as beautiful as Hazrat Jareer (RZ)'s. In another instance, Hazrat Omer (RZ) had even said, "Jareer (RZ) is the Yousaf of our time."

As mentioned, Hazrat Jareer (RZ) not only had an impressive appearance but also had a wonderful nature. He (RZ) would not think twice before handing over the most precious of his belongings to the needy as charity. When his (RZ) family used to object on these carefree givings, he (RZ) used to reply that he (RZ) just passed on the Almighty's property to His creation. The essence of humbleness in this statement indeed has lessons for us. First and foremost being that nothing which we have belongs to us. It, in fact, has been bestowed on us by the Supreme Creator. If only we could etch this deep in our minds, our lives will become considerably easier. Secondly, we need to be just as spontaneous and big hearted while giving charity.

Another example of his exalted nature and prudence can be inferred from an event when a

gathering of the companions of Prophet (S.A.W.) was underway, when a strong foul odour was felt. Hazrat Omer (RZ), strong though as he was, had little tolerance for odours. In his extreme anger he ordered in general, "Go perform ablution!" The practicality of this order would have revealed the guilty and the entire affair would have been very embarrassing; seeing this Hazrat Jareer (RZ) offered his suggestion and said, "O' Omer! Why don't we all go and perform ablution?" in complete understanding of this wise suggestion, Hazrat Omer (RZ) broke into a prayer and said, " O' Jareer (RZ) may Allah's numerous peace and blessings be upon you!"

The fact that Hazrat Jareer (RZ) was taken in pride by the Creator and His beloved Prophet (S.A.W.) is a reason enough for us to look up to him however; complimenting it is the perfect amalgamation of handsome features, a prudent mind and a generous heart leaves one praying for him that:

"May Allah's numerous peace and blessings be upon Hazrat Jareer (RZ)."
Amen!

Excerpts from the Narrations of
Quran & Sunnah by: Mufti Muhammad Saeed Khan

Kiren Nazar
Editor, BBA

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*Not to seek success,
but to deserve it.*

--Lester B. Pearson

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Prayer Therapy

Instinct of survival generates hope. Hope leads to dependence and faith in the Almighty. Stronger the faith more would be dependence on the spiritual links with the Almighty. Faith has great potential for healing patients. This faith in the Omnipotent and Omnipresent Being lies within us all as a dormant force that could be activated through sincere prayers. This faith entails the belief that there is a Being that could be looked up to in times of pain, agony and hopelessness.

My experience as clinical psychologist shows that during treatment sessions the patients with religious leanings have shown quicker recovery than those having little or no faith in any of the God sent religions. Quoting the Biblical saying it can be said that "with faith if you ask the mountain to move it would move". Here what is meant by faith is not only the belief in the existence of God, but it also means a conviction that there is an All Powerful God closest to our life line, Who listens to our calls at all times and showers on us waves after waves of bounties and gifts of mercy and kindness. The only need is to maintain genuine communication link with the Almighty through practice on tenets of Islam, sincere prayers and belief in the Quranic words,

"Ease and comfort is corollary to adversities; Verily adversity is linked with good days ahead." (Al-Quran-Sura105, Alam Nashrah)

Prayer with strength of faith could have tremendous impact on the healing process of psychic diseases. The fountain of this strength of faith lies within hidden layers of heart and mind of every person. With some it gets aroused under pressure of circumstances and for others, appealing motivational direction is needed. One could test own strength of faith when faced with vicissitudes. Difference between rituals and real faith in Allah could be observed from the story that once appeared on one of the web sites. As the story goes, one day during Friday prayers, a 1000 member congregation was surprised to see two men enter, both covered from head to toe in black and carrying Submachine guns. One of the men proclaimed, "Anyone willing to take a bullet for Allah to remain where you are". Immediately the congregation fled, and out of the 1000 there only remained around 20. The man who had spoken took off his hood, looked at the Imam and said, "Okay Maulana, I got rid of all the hypocrites. Now you may begin your sermon". The two men then turned and walked out. The story ends here, but what it teaches is that majority of those showing enthusiasm in performing rituals may be lacking the required strength of faith in Allah. The clinical psychologist could help certain patients by giving directions and suggestions based on his/her motivation to strengthen that real faith in Allah and human dependence on Allah's mercy for fulfilling all their needs. Instances have come to observation that same process of treating a patient was applied on two categories of people-for one the healing response was better than the response of the other, which was slower. This difference was apparently due to the weakness and strength of Faith, provided both believed in Allah and prayed for recovery.

Case histories of two patients of "Depression" brought to this scribe are given below, who were put through motivational drive for arousing their strength of faith on the Divine Powers of Allah that could be bestowed upon human beings. One was an educated, intelligent, bright young man who had fallen to the enticement of the "militants" or "jehadies". He was being brainwashed with almost different motivational drive that brought in great conflict between the new and his already held knowledge of Islam. He continued to reconcile with the circumstances as long as he could bear the pangs of mental conflict. Ultimately he could bear no longer and in a state of depression and frustration he fell out quietly from a mission assigned to him. Through the help of a relative he was,

ultimately, brought to the clinical psychologist. During the 'sessions' his religious motivation was determined and he was given certain 'suggestions' that appealed to him. After 5, 6 'sessions' the young man was not only normal but had developed a keen desire to get into constructive practical life. Today he is in superior services of Pakistan and doing well in life.

The other is the case of a misguided and spoiled man who lived in a 'Vice' city of Europe for a length of his youth and was suffering from strong guilt complex. The clinical psychologist found difficulty during initial sessions in breaking his inset memories of the past. Ultimately his hidden and dormant motivation for religion was discovered. It helped in guiding him towards the merits of prayer and Toba ("forgiveness"). He also got the courage to repent his past life style and the needed determination to give up that life style for future. May God bless him and accept his prayers and pleas of forgiveness.

The purpose of entire discourse is to emphasis the importance of arousing this strength of prayers and faith while treating the people suffering from psychological problems. Psychological treatment is mostly the battle of minds where the clinical psychologist has to win over the thought process of the patient.

Sadaf Sajjad
Faculty Member

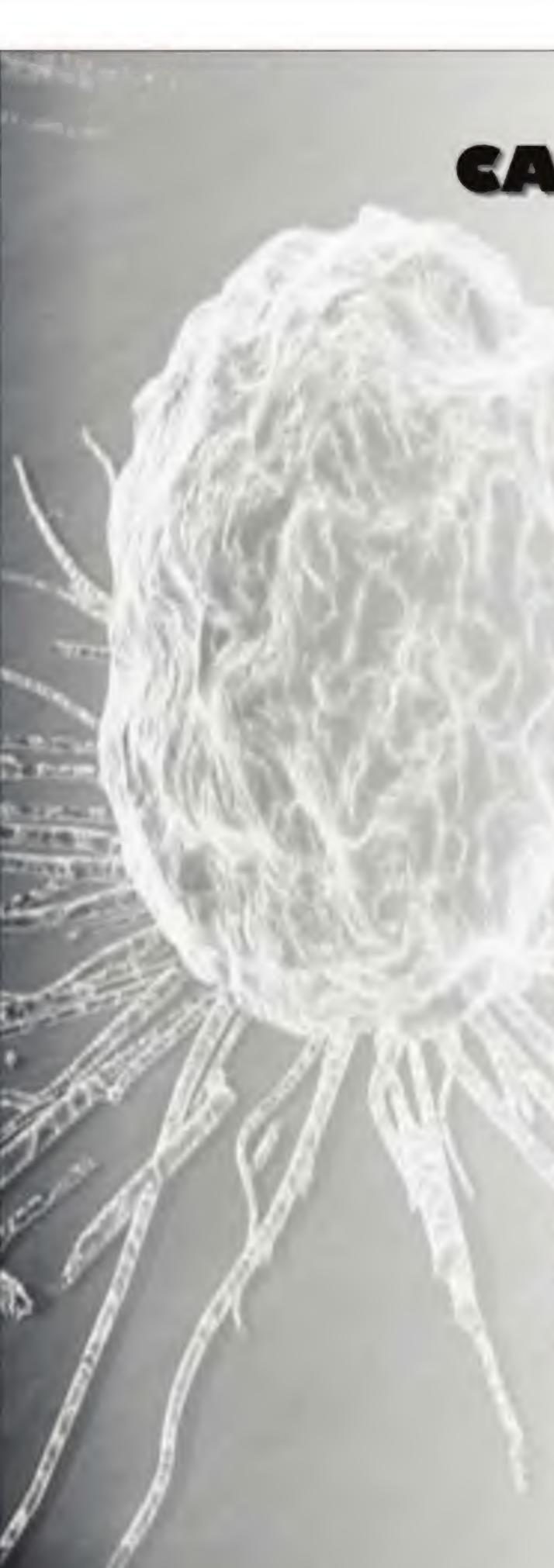
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*When the world pushes you to your knees,
you are in the perfect position to pray*

-Anonymous

”

CANCER



Once, a person was suffering from cancer. He complained of high fever, exhaustion and sudden weight loss along with some other malaria like symptoms. His friend who was a "Neem Hakeem" suggested that if he treats each secondary disease individually then we can get rid of the root cause. The person started taking medicine for all the apparent symptoms he had, in order to cure the cancer. Do you think that he had decided the right way of treatment? Same is the case with our society. The cancer of corruption in our society is very deeply rooted and it has caused every segment of our society to show its hideous and nasty face. The question arises here is that if we want to cure the disastrous disease of our society; shall we follow the same way as mentioned in the anecdote above?

Of course not! Rectifying the outgrown segments would not effect the main spring and it may spurt out its face out of another hole. We have to eradicate the primary root i-e, the system. If we change the system then there is no need to fix the secondary problem, as they will automatically vanish.

Now where this system does exists? Yes, system exists in the mind of people. We have to alter the thought of our society in order to uproot this cancer. It is rather interesting to note that if we comprise this whole system then why should we ask others to change it? The deepest branch of that cancerous root is right in my mind! If "I" pull it out valiantly, and if every "I" in society does the same then these 'I+I'=WE' can reform the whole system. And this is the simplest the difficult most remedy of this cancer.

Umair Latif
BCE

Pakistan's First Fighter Aircraft

As an avid follower of the aviation world and modern day air crafts, I have always been inspired by these gigantic metal structures. To satisfy my love for aircrafts my parents were so generous to allow me to have the monthly editions of "Aviation Week". One thing I always used to wonder was that I never happened to see the name of our beloved country in the manufacturing of air crafts and that used to keep me in a kind of an inferiority complex. But just a few months back I was happily surprised to see Pakistan's name regarding the much talked about JF-17 Air craft which has recently been developed by Pakistan and China as a joint venture. So that forced me to let our readers get an insight of this air craft and also to give them an opportunity to be the part of this historical event.

As the name suggests, JF stands for "Joint Fighter-17". "Joint" because it's been a joint venture of Pakistan and China and "fighter" is the family of air crafts it belongs to. The joint programme started in early 90's and the first prototype was made in 2003. The official first flight took place on 3rd September 2003 in China. It lasted for 15 minutes. On 21st March 2007 the then President Pervez Musharaf inaugurated the first flight of JF-17 in Pakistan.

JF-17 is a 3.5 generation multi-role, all weather, day and night-fighter. It can carry variety of weapons; short range missiles, radar and laser guided missiles, cluster bombs and mines.

Avionics which consists of the cockpit gadgets and telecom of the aircraft consists of Multifunctional Display, wide angle head up display (in aviation terms: HUD), due to this function pilot doesn't have to turn around to handle any instrument as all the information is displayed on the canopy of the cockpit. Its control stick is in the centre using the technology of HANDS on THROTTLE and STICK or in aviation term HOTAS.

JF-17 uses the Russian made RD-93 jet engine which is a modified version of RD-33 engine being used in MIG-29 being used by Indian Air force. JF-17 has a speed of Mach 1.8 (Mach 1 = 1200 Km/h). Just for the sake of knowledge you must be thinking which aircraft is currently the fastest in the world. It's the French made RAPTOR which has the speed of Mach 2.8 while F-16 has a speed of Mach 2.2 to 2.5.

Now what makes JF-17 so special is its range which is 3000 km and a radius of 1200 km which makes it one of the finest in air-to-air close range combat or as the flyers calls it "DOG FIGHT". Air is provided to engine by two intakes mounted on the fuselage below the canopy. The intakes have stealth feature reducing the radar signature and heat signature. After landing JF-17 applies a parachute break.

In addition to air-to-air and air-to-ground warfare JF-17 can also perform COMBAT AIR PATROL or (CAP), Close Air Support or (CAS) and it also has the anti ship capability. JF-17 also has the mid air refuelling capability.

On the economic front its total cost is 15 million dollars thus making it very affordable and making it cheaper than F-16 which costs 40 million dollars. Overall, it is an excellent aircraft providing state of the art technology in very low cost to Pakistan and it will also provide the much needed boost to our economy as many countries have shown interest in buying it.

So, all accolades to our beloved Pakistan Air Force!

Shehyar Imtiaz
Editor, BCE

Lollywood...? Come On ! (Unedited)

It copies, and it is flop. Then there is self humiliation of cheap songs, absurd stories, unimaginable dances, and vulgarity overlapping the definition of brutality. Even truck drivers and uneducated wheel barrow owners have a taste far above these mosaics of alien ingredients. And definitely not the least in the list are aunties, a.k.a. our heroines.

Movie lovers have a certain genre proclaiming that only Hollywood holds the doctrine of original and fresh ideas; rest copy. Excluding them from this discussion what remain behind are Bollywood lovers, Hollywood and Bollywood lovers, and those who watch whatever seems good, even when the flick is homemade.

One thing unarguable is whosoever copies Hollywood, does get caught and this also goes for the pundits of Bollywood. It is simply inevitable that a flick based on murder, suspense, convoluted mystery, and a girl living alone in her apartment may not give you a déjà vu. The thing is, it is just for Hollywood to manage such plots, and for us to watch. There is no way out. Having said that doesn't mean that the movies based on inspired themes don't make it well. Of course they do. They are watched even if the audiences keep mumbling.

Lollywood doesn't hold the guts to copy Hollywood. How can it? Scientifically speaking, people will blow away their stomachs with laughter if Syed Noor portrays Saima Madam flying over skyscrapers in the next trilogy of Matrix, even with the best of CGI effects available. What Lollywood can do is to try presenting Pakistani culture in a sensible manner and if opting for a glamorous themed motion picture, again sense should be made.

Even the least caring person about Pakistani movies does know the name Khuda Kay Liye. Ask that person and you'll get to hear a positive note. So, the movie made it to India and as it happened, those in Pakistan who till then had stuck with the antagonistic groundswell did watch it. Everyone watched it, maybe not you but others did and they liked it. And it was a movie that presented a subject no one could expect to be there in a Pakistani film. But indeed it was very much Pakistani.

The race had been ignited much before, back in 1995 when came Jeeva. To say the least, it was different from its predecessors. There was a fresh theme with a new management manner and it was appreciated. The song Choo Lay Agar Tujh Ko Huva resonated the television sets of hundreds of homes, it was chanted by all and sundry, and every second girl preferred having Resham as her pseudonym. But much attention was diverted to the happenings of Indian cinema. With inefficient processing procedures and low budgets, even if Pakistani movies had something to offer, it went overlooked and ignored. Whose fault it was?

Silence was broken again some years later when came the movie Teray Pyar Main introducing the first ever Pakistani movie to be dubbed on Dolby Digital pattern and processed on international standards. The movie introduced a new female face, which created waves in the nation and stunningly a very uncanny theme was presented. One way or the other majority of the public didn't care much for the effort that had been made. The story? Have you happened to watch Veer Zara that came to the big picture just a couple of years back?

Yeh Dil Aap Ka Huwa. Now I happen to be a movie geek, keeping track of all sorts of movies and for me, it's no problem watching a Pakistani production in a cinema because I believe in something that is always present in a 'good' Pakistani movie, which even the Gooras can't produce, and that something can only be felt not described. Talking about the said movie won't help anyone as my

opinion about it is not what you do hear on TV. Nevertheless I did watch it and hoped that something better would come from Sheikh in future.

Choorian was a good one, though lacking so many technicalities yet winning so much appreciation. But that didn't change our perceptions about Punjabi movies (should they be called movies?). A year or so back, we friends decided to check out Mission Impossible III that was being screened in a local cinema but the fate had a surprise: it was Majajan. Shocked we were, yet we couldn't afford a tour from Islamabad to Rawalpindi in a public transport vehicle and then back again without having fun. So a painful and unanimous decision was made to go ahead and watch Madam Saima's performance as a Majajan. We had a good time. Unbelievable but that's the most honest statement I can issue. Not only the theme was captivating, the ending was hats off. A couple of weeks back we had a reunion on a friend's birthday and we were still talking about it.

And finally we had Mohabbataan Sachiyaan, the epic. Ask me and there can be a whole chapter on its praise. Though many won't agree to a Punjabi movie being lauded so much but what better argument can be given that it was supported by GEO. It just had everything and if you have happened to miss it, you have missed something really big.

Recently Khulay Aasman Kay Neechay appeared in headlines followed by extremely negative and pinching remarks from aficionados of criticism a.k.a. critics. Jawed Sheikh never claimed a movie as good as Hollywood's Gladiator or Troy and certainly our reviewers while reviewing Khulay Asmaan Kay Neechay were unable to hide their biased dismay. I went with my family to watch this movie and as I read the reviews I was ambivalent to give credence to whom: a house full of audience who applauded copiously during the three hours or the view presented by the magazines and papers.

Certainly the movie had some downfalls including imbecile cheap comedy, which were exaggerated by the papers but simultaneously some of the exceptionally original sequences that left the audience at awe were not enumerated. Agreeing with the critics over illogical pairing of couples, the movie on the contrary was successful enough to portray the chauvinist society.

Ramchand Pakistani was another exceptionally good movie, beating many foreign made films of the same category on many grounds. So much has been said in its praise, which leaves me void of words.

Peeking in the list of all other movies that come and go without ever being noticed, one thing is common: nonsense, which can of course be linked to lack of education. Having said this, I am not going to debate on education and movies. The point is that this aspect of our movies combined with an overwhelmingly impressed attitude towards India has repelled Pakistani people from their own cinema. Consequently, if a homemade movie ever tries to make a difference, so much is expected of it that eventually a larger portion of public is disappointed vowing never to watch a Pakistani movie again. Adding insult to injury are the critics of local newspapers and magazines who are at daggers drawn when it comes to criticizing a Pakistani movie. Definitely much improvement can be compensated but one should be generous enough to pardon an effort in contrast with usual Lollywood second-hand scrap.

Khawar Naeem
Editor-in-Chief, Synergy 2007
Graduate BET

I stand Here

I stand here
Waiting anxiously
Searching beyond the horizon
In the vast space that enshrouds
The twinkling stars
I await; for you to come!
To embrace and instill me
What I have yet to know
To clear this visage for me
To help me cross,
These conflicting crossroads
If you would just come
And embrace me!
Enshroud me with an aura
That vibrates my life and soul

Saadia Awan
Editor-in-Chief, BBA

Saadia Awan
BBA

I will never forget You.....

The rain hit the ground with full force; as she sat motionless on the bench, the rain drenching her clothes, moistening her cheeks. The world lay grey in front of her; she couldn't even feel the splattering rain that hit her; as her mind was totally numb. There were no feelings in her. She stoically stared ahead and saw nothing. Her conscious refused to face the misery of even thinking about her problems. She was tired; more tired than she'd ever been in life. And now it seemed even the heavens was sharing her grief as more and more rain heavily poured down the sky.

Why me? She thought; miserable almost giving in to the urge of crying again but managed to control herself. She had endured it as long as she could, had kept silent as long as she could, but each and every time fate seemed to deliver a crueler hand to her, leaving her wounded and bleeding. The more she tried healing her wounds, the more intensively she felt the pain, and more she hoped for a cure, as a result things would get even worse. Sometimes she felt as if life had wound a rope around her neck and was squeezing it tighter and tighter waiting for the moment she would finally choke to death.

Her eyes could see the reality around her but they refused to wake any recognition in her. Silence was being broken by the sound of raindrops embracing the ground, but the silence inside her refused to hear even that. Her mind saw it all, heard it all, yet it was blank. She had collapsed. Now she was no longer the same. She doubted she would ever understand anything again. Everything was finished. She had lost her last hope, her one and only ray of recognition. Her way of being able to coexist with the world while being true to herself was demolished into dirt.

The cemetery in front of her presented a gloomy picture. The graves, tombstones, epitaphs and the silent air were strange and cold. Yet the slow breeze caressing her soaked face in the rain was what made her feel the cemetery was forever familiar to her and was sharing her intimate grief. It seemed to be humming to her, telling her how cruel fate had been to it. She gazed at the last grave in the corner, where a single flower sat alone near the epitaph, though she had seen the words inscribed on it just once she remembered them vividly. Just like she remembered the person who lay buried in that grave. Suddenly she smiled as a fresh breeze passed her and words that person had spoken to her long ago came back to her.

"The wind is most faithful. It goes away, travels the world but sooner or later; always comes back to you. So, if I go away, just whisper to the winds, and I'll know what you say..."

The smile was still there when images of their time spent together flashed across her mind and the first tear finally escaped her eyes, opening the bridge for the many that followed.

"I'll never forget you." She whispered against the wind and with one last glance at the grave she wiped away her tears. The rain was slow now and seemed like it would be gone in a few moments. She stood up and walked away, out the door of the cemetery towards the world of the living, where she was a misfit but where she belonged, without ever looking back. She had whispered to the wind. He knew what she thought and that was enough to give her courage to go on.

Mariah Nawaz
Arch

Be the ONE

I may not be the one to fulfill all thy dreams,
I may not be the one to reach my destiny,
I may not be the one to excel in my life,
I may not be the one to prove myself special,
I may not be the one to muster the courage,
I may not be the one to win the race,
Neither may I be the one to fly high in the clouds,
I may not be the one to dive deep into the blue,
I may not be the one to climb the gigantic mounts,
I may not be the one to go through enchanted forests,
I may not be the one to stand against this horrible world,
I may not be the one to illuminate the correct path,
I may not be the one to open the right door,
I may not be the one to lead the naive youth,
Never can I be the one to step across the forbidden line,
But Yes, I may definitely be the one,
Still having the right to Live!
And O' Look I Am The One!!!

Fazila Akbar
MBA

The Tale of a Back Bencher

No matter what the teacher asks,
I am always up to my own tasks.

Sitting on the last bench I always sleep,
But when exams are near I always weep.

The teacher had come and she had gone,
Sitting on my last bench, I always yawn.

On my last Bench come the sweetest dreams,
But they always end when the teacher screams.

Looking all this, I sometimes try to dream,
That one day, I will be at the front like nation's cream.

Even then I love this sorrowful trench
Because I am writing this poem on the same last bench.

Hassan Mohyuddin
BBA

Why do students BUNK...? A Thesis on bunkers

You might have seen girls and boys idly sitting in the cafeteria of university, singing songs, enjoying cold drinks, discussing trends in fashion, the world cup highlights, local gossip at university front and many more. Such students seem to be satisfied and contented; hanging around idly. However the apparent dilemma is that why they do so? And why doesn't guilt come across them for doing so. This is the question which comes usually into my mind when I think of life at university especially while bunking.

Bunking is not only fun but is also the art of playing Hide-n-seek. Now there are different kinds of bunkers, I want to distinguish between extra daring bunkers and ordinary bunkers. The difference is there, due to the reason, that bunkers follow different ways of bunking and of course are stimulated to do so as a result of different level of adrenaline pumping in their blood.

Extra daring bunkers go to their class and after attendance is marked, and the teacher is looking marking the register, they pick up their bags and silently sneak out of the class. Isn't it quite daring?

They don't bother to listen to anyone as they are the cool trend setters, and they know there so called fake prestige is at stake. They make their escape alone but after that they prefer to move in packs. Usually students run out of the class right before the announcement of a horrific quiz. Though gladly this action is less popular in Comsats because we have a daily check routine and 25% marks are given from these quizzes & assignments that surely is like trumpet of hell, and students seem to be on sizzling hot frying pan of quizzes, for the whole semester.

The second way to bunk is very simple and most of the students follow this, that is; to show themselves being absent from university. Again it is not as simple as it looks, because if their teacher finds them roaming around in the campus at any other period, then their future will definitely be very dark and horrible. So it is a serious advice that they should leave the university and find a better place of respite. Well there are multiple areas that can be considered to hitch hike to, like "SHAKAR PARIAN" is truly a footstep away, being within our reach. Not to forget the famous "Haleem Ghar", "Pizza Hut" & "Papa Sallis" where one usually spots the Comsatians roaming about.

Now let's talk of different reasons, for which bunkers bunk the classes.

- ♦ Some bunkers feel that taking quizzes is the job of toppers and bookworms only.
- ♦ Some people bunk because they don't have any free period to enjoy and they are tired of their long monotonous routine.
- ♦ The serious bunking can be due to extreme hunger, because one needs to eat something after every half an hour.
- ♦ Sometimes submission of assignments, can force, even the most punctual students to bunk the class.

A very funny sort of induced bunking is when you are five minutes late and the teacher forces you to bunk rest of that particular class even if you are not willing to do so.

Even after taking care of minute details regarding the decision of bunking whose period, which period, when and the way of bunking. Bunkers still find themselves in trouble and it seems there is no way to escape the outcomes. Sitting in the cafe and basket ball ground doesn't mean that one is safe, and no one is going to ask, why are you out? Our university is blessed with special detectives that roam around the campus in uniform guarding each nook and corner from the infamous bunkers. You always find them saying, "don't sit here, move away".

One piece of good advice is that never be caught bunking class without your university id card. One never knows the circumstances where one comes face to face with a chaalan form (rest is understood)?

I have been examining different sorts of bunkers for the last two years. And I am very anxious to know the reason, that in spite of all these troubles and problems which the bunkers usually face, people don't have good opinion about them. Why?

Arooj Mubashar Siddiqui
BET

Harry and his friends at Hogwarts

Harry Potter is perhaps the worthiest successor to the Disney name as far as captivating the imagination of youngsters (and capturing the contents of parents' pockets) is concerned. What started off as a series of author J.K. Rowling's best selling children's books spinning yarns of pseudo-Arthurian magic and fantasy at an English private school has developed into a dependable cash cow. At the head of the juggernaut is the popular series of feature films, the first being the 2001 release *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, which was followed by its current sequel, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

But after the cameras have stopped rolling, Harry and his band of Hogwartsians return to being real people. Here is a brief set of profiles of some of the major actors that have rendered their performances in *The Chamber of Secrets*.

Of course at the centre of the publicity storm is young Harry Potter himself. The bespectacled junior sorcerer is played by Daniel Radcliffe, born on July 23 1989 in England. The child star made his acting debut in 1999 at the ripe old age of 10 when he was cast as David Copperfield in the movie of the same name. Daniel actually caught the acting bug quite early; for when he was just five years old he realized that he had a love for the performing arts. This initially didn't sit well with his parents, but he convinced them to send in a picture of his to the BBC when the initial selections for David Copperfield were being made.

Following Copperfield, Radcliffe snagged a part alongside Pierce Brosnan of current James Bond fame in the film *The Tailor of Panama*. But true stardom was not to come until he beat out droves of other expectant Harrys in the first Potter film. From there it was no looking back for the child actor as his antics on screen at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry brought him instant recognition from Beijing to Belfast. One can expect this young actor to grow and mature with time, and to move on beyond his typecast role once he attains a certain level of experience. But all that can wait, for right now, one is sure Daniel is having a whale of a time playing Harry.

Kenneth Branagh is no small name. The man is incredibly accomplished – he usually doesn't settle for less than Shakespeare – and the winner of numerous awards and accolades of the world of film and theatre.

Born to a working class family on December 10, 1960 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Branagh has more than once been dubbed the next (Lawrence) Olivier – a title he is understandably not too comfortable with. Considering these lofty credentials, it was quite a surprise to see the multifaceted Branagh in kid's fare such as Potter. After all, the actor has several heavy-duty roles to his credit in such features as *Hamlet*, *Henry V*, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and *Much Ado about Nothing*. But it seems the lure of Potter was too strong to resist, even for this Shakespearean veteran, and audiences can see him playing the dark arts teacher in *The Chamber of Secrets*.

Another venerable name that has graced the Potter franchise is that of John Cleese, who plays the Nearly Headless Nick, one of the ghosts that inhabit the Hogwarts school building. Born in the English town of Weston-super-Mare on October 27th, 1939 (interesting to know that his family name in its original form was 'Cheese'), Cleese has been delighting audiences with his eccentric but brilliant brand of comic extravagance since the 1960s. The Cambridge-educated Cleese originally enrolled to study law, but his comic leanings got the better of him. He was part of the acclaimed yet strikingly bizarre English comedy troupe Monty Python, and did both a TV show and set of feature films including Monty Python's *Life of Brian* with the group. Cleese moved on to his own situation comedy *Faulty Towers* which garnered a great deal of praise for the outlandish comedian. Now the actor brings his unique touch to Potter once again, as he acted in the original as well. Both kids and grown ups are bound to enjoy this spirited actor's performance.

Rounding off the list of major players is another pint sized thespian – Rupert Grint. The auburn-haired actor made his movie debut with the first Potter Film, *The Sorcerer's Stone* playing Ronald Weasley, Harry Potter's right hand mage and is quite wet behind the ears. Born in November 1988, Grint did not have much acting experience to speak of, aside from performing in school plays and theatres across Europe. With his christening into the big bad world of showbiz, the sky is possibly the limit for the young Grint as he gains worldwide exposure through the Harry Potter juggernaut.

Now my favorite, playing the role of Hermione Granger is a young lass by the name of Emma Watson. Born on April 15, 1990, this juvenile actress also gained exposure to the world of film for the first time in the previous Potter flick *The Sorcerer's Stone*. But the talented young lady is no stranger to the arts, as not only has she been performing in school plays across Europe, but she also fine-tuned her skills through dancing, singing and taking part in poetry recitals. Emma was doing all this by the ripe old age of seven. Reprising her role in *The Chamber of Secrets* from the first film, Emma, or Hermione, can be expected to make it a hat trick with an appearance in the projected third Harry Potter feature titled *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

COURTESY:

-BBCBLOG.COM

-Cosmopolitan Magazine

-Harrypotter.com

Salman Naseem
BCE

Self Honour and Dignity

Sarah always sat quietly in her class while at school. She had no friends and she stayed away from family members as well. She always felt dejected and was unable to improve her condition. It was only when she enrolled herself in a Bachelors programme with a major in psychology at a prestigious institute that she discovered what she had been suffering from since her earliest academic years.

The discovered mystery was her very low self-esteem. By self-esteem we mean the importance or value we place on our selves. In terms of psychology we define self-esteem as follows:

"Our perception of our worth, abilities and our accomplishments which can either be positive or negative. Self-esteem thus can also be called self image. Self-esteem is such an important part of one's personality that it serves as the basis for all future achievements related to the child. If a person or a child evaluates him or her a worthy living being then there are chances of his progress in later life."

The development of self-esteem begins from the time a child is able to perceive the world around him. It is mainly formed by the people around him which include his parents and siblings. Other member of the family's behaviour has its impact but the interaction of the child with his parents and siblings has a major effect. It can also be seen around us that the children with full support, love and care of parents and siblings remains stable and confident.

Does the child consider himself a human being of worth, and special abilities and values himself and considers himself important? All of this depends on his experiences in early childhood years from where he will grow into a confident normal, stable, healthy (physically, mentally) adolescent. He can form two types of self-esteem which are

- (i) Positive self-esteem
- (ii) Negative self-esteem

Love and care

In the early years of his life if a child is given proper love, care and attention and he is encouraged to do good and taught not to indulge in wrong activities, his personality is psychologically sound and descent. Thus the child will also after becoming an adolescent give importance to himself, consider himself worthwhile, believe in himself and try to explore all his hidden talents. Such children will also:

- Possess positive self concept.
- Excel in all sorts of healthy activities.
- Will be academically brilliant
- Will also be flexible.
- Accepted every where they go

Such children will be psychologically well adjusted. Even at school, these children will achieve much more as they will have confidence in their abilities. When at school they will achieve more, their self-esteem will rise even higher and then in later life such children will also aspire for high vocational goals.

They will accept any negative behavior in them and try their best to get rid of it. They will be more responsive to other children's feelings because their own psychological as well as physiological needs will have been met and most of all these children will remain safe from danger of any depression, anxiety or any other sort of mental disorders.

Negative image

As self-esteem grows out of human interaction where the individual is considered important or significant or in some cases indispensable. Low self-esteem builds up when the child is not considered as important as other children of his age, and a negative, worthless, insignificant image of himself, his talents and his abilities are created. Children with low self-esteem become like this because of their

parents sheer negligence, criticizing him always for not coming up to the standards of behavior set by them. They are not provided adequate emotional support during critical periods.

They are even rebuked by their siblings, and friends. They are made to feel they lack in some basic aspect of personality as a result these children since the very beginning develop a poor self image and hence have low self-esteem. Such children even in their childhood and later in their adolescence are never accepted in peer groups, they are made to make sacrifices for other siblings.

They become very timid and shy. They don't even identify with any of their parents. They develop feelings of isolation, followed by loneliness. They feel altogether incompetent and unsure of their abilities in social situations. They also feel the need of association and acceptance by others. In doing so at times they also do things that they do not want to do.

In their attempt to overcome insecurity they attach themselves with an elder (an outsider or a relative) and wish to please him. They also bear that person's mood swings, and are easily led and influenced by them. Such children are also academically weak. They are therefore feeble minded. Although they are just like other normal children but they hide their talents and capabilities fearing they might be rebuked or bullied by others. Even when selecting vocational fields, they seem undecided and leave such important decisions to their elders. This is because they have difficulty communicating with others about their wishes and desires.

Such children on becoming adolescents suffer from many emotional problems including surmounting stress and anxiety. On reaching adolescence they are more prone to rejection, rebuke and criticism. They become easily hurt and badly disturbed if they are scolded, blamed or laughed at. These children on reaching an older age may become aggressive, disobedient, non-cooperative, stubborn and disrespectful in order to give vent to their frustrations or may remain quite, depressed, lonely, suffering from psychosis after cutting themselves from social gatherings. Such individuals can also develop a variety of other psychological disorders the common being somatoform disorder. The disorder in which there is a psychological disorder taking the form of physical disorder. It can be headache, back ache, etc.

Gender differences

In one research study, the relation between gender differences and self-esteem was examined. According to the conclusion, the two major concerns of girls which led to low self-esteem were their physical development and health.

Among boys the two major concerns leading to low self-esteem were social and psychological relations. Other than this both genders showed great concern about academics and careers.

Conclusion

So we can conclude by saying that as the development of self-esteem originates from a child's relationship with his parent. Children who grow up with poor self image and low self-esteem are a result of their parent's negative attitude towards them.

Such negligent parents must become aware of the fact that their behavior towards their children can even play havoc with their lives. During adolescence these children are not be able to adjust well. They tend to suffer from a host of mental disorders.

It is high time that parents should realize that warmth, concern and their interest in their children will produce confident, brilliant, well adjusted youngsters. They will possess high self-esteem and will have good social and interpersonal relations thereby making their parents proud.

COURTESY:

Dr. Farida Imtiaz

Dr. Tahmina Mailk

Fahad Mujahid Khan
BCE

Till the Final Bell Tolls.....

Despite the stunning progress of science in every walk of life," the crown of creation" has not been able to conquer one thing... The fear of exams.

Whether it's a brilliant student or a duffer... everybody fears this genie of exams. Haven't you ever noticed the wonderful scene one can enjoy in the "house of horror" a.k.a the Examination Hall that everyone seems too busy playing?

Ahem! Ahem! Well I seldom have anything to write on the answer sheet ('coz I hate getting my hands sweaty after holding the pen for three hours) Please don't be doubtful about my ingenuity (thanks).

We can find three types of students in the examination hall. Firstly, the Newtons of the class (male only, coz so far I haven't been able to find any female Newton, if at all there is any). They receive the paper with a sunny smile, spread across their otherwise "PTV-faces". Other students enviously start gazing at such brilliant rock stars as if just by looking at them would solve half of their exam questions.

"Help your brethren in times of trouble" Alas! The brainy guys don't pay any attention to their suffering class fellows. They shrug their shoulders and bury their heads in answer sheets pouring forth the precious pearls of wisdom that they had crammed...Oops! Sorry, I mean, learnt throughout the year. Whether it's a thunderstorm, rain, tornado, or an atomic explosion nothing can make them lift their heads...till the final bell tolls. They keep on waiting till the last minute and the invigilators have to snatch the answer sheets from their claws...oh I mean... hands.

Secondly we come to not-so-fortunate students who work all the year to get some sense of staggering theories of physics, to unearth the mystery of electronics and what not. As they receive the question papers, they swiftly glance at them and roll their eyes off. Beads of perspiration appear on their foreheads and they turn pale... They splutter, they cough... when they realize that there is no way out, a strange sort of terror creeps into their eyes and they can foresee their future... they try to call all sorts of 'WAZIFAS' that their mothers have taught them. With a heavy heart and tearful eyes, they start attempting the first question (with the aid of friends, of course).

Last but not the least, is the case of carefree students who have hidden their helping stuff in pockets, socks, pen caps (not safe now a days) etc. On receiving the question paper they don't bother even to throw a glance at it. Later on, they have to go to bathroom after every half an hour (to consult the answers, of course). They skilfully manoeuvre the paper balls and paper planes that they had prepared all night in the light of candles and soon start passing these balls to others as tokens of friendship. They always remain satisfied. These are the honorable students who simply cannot bear to see their university go down and thus, are the pride of their university. They pledge to continue doing what they are doing for the cause of better education (a.k.a the-A4-sized-degree) and in the name of friendship.



Rukham Mumtaz Khan
BCE

The Ways to Overcome Poverty in Pakistan

The problem of poverty in Pakistan has become immensely complicated. Number of people committing suicide has risen due to unemployment; several incidents of homicide have occurred where single bread earner of family brutally murder their wife and kids as a result of unemployment. They are so severely stricken by it that they are unable to bear the expenses of their dependents. Selling kidney for the sake of a small sum of money, child labor, robbery are the clear indication of aggravating poverty prevalent in our society.

According to one survey more than 35% of the people are living below the poverty line: It means these are those people who have no shelter and cannot afford two consecutive meals at one time. These people also are not provided with basic necessities like clean water, health care and education. Unavailability of these basic needs stunts their ability to compete in a competitive environment and hence they lack vacancy in any field ultimately they are unable to improve their living standard and remain in the shadows of poverty.

According to one research the ratio of poverty in rural areas is quite massive than in urban areas. The people residing in rural areas rely on agriculture for their livelihood. The agriculture sector in Pakistan is full of uncertainty, one reason being the government does not show interest in agriculture sector being constantly neglected are unavailability of water in certain areas, uncertain weather conditions, and floods. Hundreds of small towns in our country don't have facility of clean water and the natives have to walk for miles on a daily basis to fetch water. The feudalist gives nothing to their tenants except providing them two meals a day. Agricultural revolution cannot be obtained until or unless we uproot feudal system from Sindh and Interior of Punjab. As poverty creates many problems which reflect the mayhem arising in the present Government. It raises the question of when our country will get good governance. The political instability for the last two decades, the frequent debacle of governments and the constant handing over of power have destroyed many institutions in our country and many mega projects have failed to be completed which can prove to be beneficial for general public. So we fail to implement our so called five year plans as a result of miscreant leaders who carry out bad governance. Governance is defined as the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's social and economic resources for development. Good governance implies a capacity to turn public income into human development outcomes. Good governance is an essential pre-condition for pro-poor growth as it establishes the enabling regulatory and legal framework essential for the sound functioning of land, labor, capital and other factors of markets.

There are two big challenges for Pakistan one is to boost its economic growth and other is to reduce poverty; these two challenges are interconnected as it is not possible to reduce poverty without a boost in economy. In current circumstances to forecast economic growth which can be beneficial for general public it is not more than a dream but if planning is done with good intentions then it can be implemented. Political stability is fundamental to the creation of an enabling environment for growth and development. Economic agents, particularly investors, must be reassured with the continuation of effective policies that support economic boom, they should develop and strengthen confidence in their government's credibility in order to operate effectively, in the case of investors they should be induced to take risks. The perceived security threat on Pakistan's eastern border which has dominated Pakistan's political culture has resulted in the domination of Pakistani military in prevalent politics.

Lack of transparency in public sector, planning, budgeting and allocation of resources in Pakistan has ensured that those who do not constitute the political elite are unable to be political figures and leaders. The Government responsive to the needs or is accountable to promises made only to the elite or so called substantial heads of the nation. This has led to a supply driven approach to service provisions, with development priorities being determined not by potential beneficiaries but by the bureaucracy and a political elite which may or may not be in touch with the needs of the citizens.

A number of civil service reforms have to be introduced by the Government to strengthen our public sector departments and institutions and make them more accountable and responsive to the citizenry.

A number of civil service reforms have to introduce by the Government to strengthen public sector departments and institutions and make them more accountable and responsive to the citizenry of Pakistan.

Zakat, a donation to charity is obligatory for Muslims; it is also Pakistan's main social welfare or protection system. So government has to ensure that this charity should be put in to the pockets of the truly deserving individuals that is the needy people. The government has to set check on the private hospital 'and schools to make sure that they are not being charged high fees or are being distorted in any means.

Conclusion:

To reduce poverty the government and private sectors should take steps mutually. Multinational corporations and local companies have to work together to implement their Role of Social Responsibility. That is real social responsibility not commercializing it. I remember when I was doing project on Mobilink's social responsibility there proclamation was that they are doing many things for the society but when we actually inquired what there contribution was I found it to be a meagre implementation of there Social Responsibility just for the sake of being called a "caring company". So corporation in Pakistan have to be sincere to their society. Government should stop privatizing our institutions because foreigners take the profit from the respective country and invest the capital earned in other countries like: PTCL privatization they laid off many employees but if it it had been retained in the hand of government this wouldn't have happened and the current strikes from PTCL employees could have been avoided and consumers would not have suffered. Government should promote credit financing facility to encourage small business with low mark-ups. They should maintain law & order systems so not only can people of Pakistan learn to respect our Legal and Judicial Institutions. Hence shameful crisis like judicial crisis can be prevented. We have to sanctify Pakistan and this can be done only if we awaken our inner self respect.

Imran Ejaz
BBA



A man's life is interesting primarily when he has failed . . . for it's a sign that he tried to surpass himself.

- Georges Clemenceau



Deconstructive Architecture and Pakistan

Living in this world of 21st century in the context of 19th and 20th century, I feel that Pakistan as a third world country is hanging between the two worlds i.e. true and existing one and the unknown and hidden world. We live in today; recall our past and dream of tomorrow - a future with aspects of peace, calmness, beauty, aesthetics and prosperity with progress. Yes we want all these but what we get in reality from them? So far only dreams of dreams for the dreams that will always be dreams leading to more dreams and more dreams. But then the reality strikes back and shatters away every bit of our dreams leaving behind pieces of those dreams that we do see but cannot fulfil, only because we dream but do not dream the future but the past.

As far as architecture is concerned, we dream of a beautiful house of 2-kanals. In our society, on the average, we paradoxically get an area of about one forth of it as our land of ownership. We want an elevation of our 2-kanal houses upon the front of our home with a front as much as 30 feet wide. No doubt, development authorities were always there to shock us and leave us only horrified and tantalized. Costing always increases and as a result for an average person with passage of time it becomes a bitter reality of a beautiful dream!! Yes we all face it and see it in our surroundings.

Always dreaming of something better and ending up mostly in an average home after spending our lifelong expectations and assets in it. Why so? Because we dream at night and the world works at day! Only solution then would be:

Day dreaming!

How could it be? That's impossible and far more ridiculous than anything I ever heard. Yes it is, but for sure it's true. Probably this is an answer to all our problems and a solution to prevent the shattering of our dreams after all.

Is there an alternative? Yes, live in the way you are living and leave the rest of the world and let them enjoy opulent luxurious life and accept you do not deserve to be one of them. Unacceptable? I was pretty much sure of it. Thus we should move onto the next step and accept that we want better homes and yes above all according to our dreams.

But then another question comes to my mind and perhaps to your mind as well! Do we dream and if yes, what do we dream about? Is every thing so much clear to us and do we remember them too. Most of us don't but it is our dreams that lead us to that part of imagination that we cannot achieve or imagine with opened eyes. That's why in Architecture, we value dreams and imagination more than our realities and truths!

Fiction is by far stranger than reality and truth but in parallel it is truer than a truth. This is our world of today and probably will be till we live. We accept it now because we want to live at least for our present and future and building it the way our future should be built.

So we bring all our dreams together and transform them into a reality which we physically want to see and experience. Our core objective would be the reality that is functional, aesthetical and a fulfilled reality of our dreams. So which philosophy will help us in the transformation our dreams and enabling us to get the desired results and output as par our desires? I opt for DECONSTRUCTION? Why and what is it? That's what I can't answer as I don't have an answer to it. The only thing that led me to this decision (or perhaps, choice or conclusion) is the feeling the

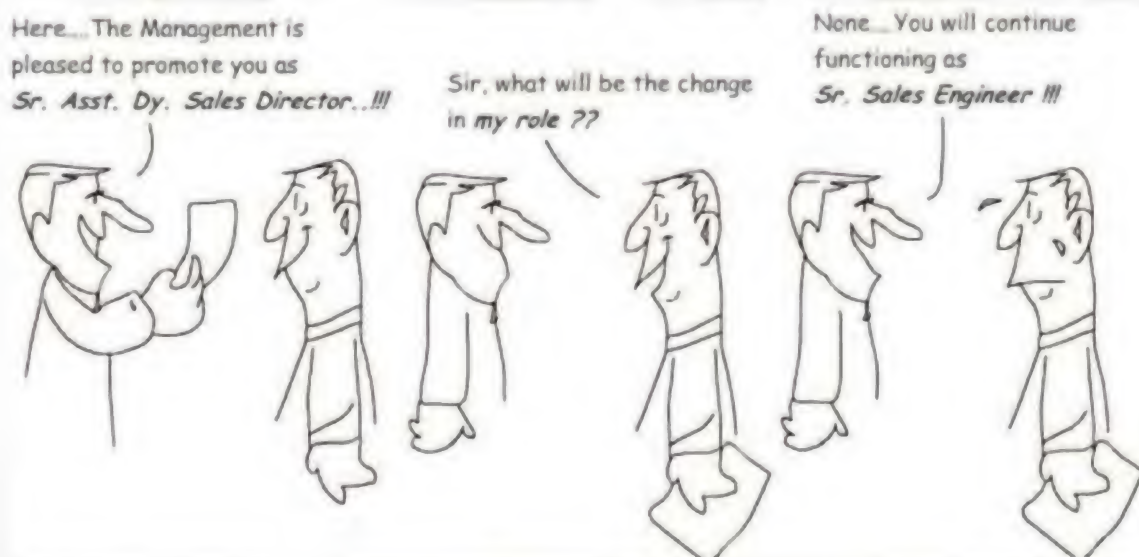
essence or spirit of a dream into a realistic physical building standing today.

When I see the Architectural works of Architects like Peter Eisenman, Zaha Hadid, Bernard Schumi, Frank Gehry, etc one thing comes to my mind that they have brought a revolution in the world of Architectural aesthetics by adding more vision and testing it within Architectural arena. They succeeded as they had a dream to follow and then miraculously they knew the way of how to transform it into reality. Thus we have supporting realities on ground to support our views and then believe in what we call ourselves "DAY DREAMERS OF THE MODERN ERA". Finally and perhaps the last step that will help us modify our future will be by locating an Architect who can do so on our behalf. Once we are there, let the Architect develop the design, give him/her freedom of thought, layout your budget, tell him/her all what you want and then lets hope for a bright future and a lively home to live in keeping in mind that:



"People cannot start to live in good homes until they decide not to live in bad homes"

Omer Shujat Bhatti
Editor, Architecture



Contributed By: Mr. Sohail Ghani

The Electronic Revolution

- The Access of Digital Library and E-Library by Higher Education Commission

Changes brought by the Electronic Revolution have and will continue to have profound effect on the researchers who use libraries at their source of primary information. Librarians and library users are getting increasingly familiar with electronic forms of many standard works including reference books (e.g., dictionaries and encyclopedias), periodical indexes and abstracts, and digital library, full-text electronic journals, E-library books. These materials were easily adapted to electronic format and, by and large, readily accepted by library users, if not as de facto replacements for print equivalents, but as the convenient and appealing additions to the library repertoire.

The advent of information technology and the subsequent fast pace development in communication technologies have revolutionized almost every sphere of human life.

The electronic connectivity across the globe has enabled people throughout the world to interact more closely than ever before in the past human history. Through Internet, in almost every field of knowledge, the world's scholars are sharing experience and information with their counterparts in the farthest corner of the globe. The information sharing, at such phenomenal speed has opened new horizons for the development of human capital and knowledge-based economies throughout the world. The McLuhan's Global Village has almost become a reality and the world, at the intellectual front, is fast shrinking.

The same technological developments, especially the digitization of information and knowledge has however created the biggest ever divide among the developed and underdeveloped nations of the world. The phenomenon of Global Digital Divide has brought forth serious challenges for the third world countries. As noted by Stewart Marshall "barely two percent of the world's six billions are linked to the Internet. And most people on the planet have not even made a telephone call, let alone accessed the Web. There are more telephone lines in a city like Tokyo than the whole sub-Saharan Africa. In the United States, Internet access costs a user only one percent of monthly income as compared to a month's income to his counterpart in Uganda".

Developing countries across the world are struggling hard to keep pace with the fast changing technological developments as the Global Digital Divide literally threatening their survival and sovereignty. .

In Pakistan, the Higher Education Commission, (HEC) has taken revolutionary initiatives to respond to the big challenge. Under the dynamic leadership of Professor, Dr. Atta-ur- Rahman, HEC has launched several well-planned, wide-ranging programmes, focusing on the improvement of the digital environment, the standard of education and the quality of research in the country. One of the most outstanding initiatives taken by HEC is the launching of the digital library programme through which most of the public & private universities and non-profit research organizations of the country are provided full text access to more than twenty three thousand high quality research journals. In another recent move the institutions of higher learning are provided full text access to more than forty thousand electronic books published by world's most eminent publishers including Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Princeton University Press, The McGraw-Hill Book Companies, etc. The most outstanding aspect of these initiatives is that access to these invaluable information resources is provided absolutely free-of cost. Such radical change in our education sector is highly encouraging and commendable. The move, of course attests strong commitment and determination of the government to the development and the progress of the country.

In addition to the digital library and e-book projects the HEC has launched many other remarkable programmes to facilitate a world class research environment in the country.

Pakistan Educational and Research Network (PERN) is an excellent programme which provides interconnectivity through a high-speed Internet bandwidth, between more than sixty educational and research organizations across the country. The PERN's member universities are facilitated with an access to 155 Mbps international Internet bandwidth and an increased Intranet bandwidth which provides 50Mbps capacity. In addition, the member universities are also provided with a 45Mb downlink through PAKSAT1. Through PERN the public & private universities of the country can share a wide range of multimedia presentations and other applications. Lectures, talks, discussions and interviews can also be arranged through videoconferencing on PERN.

Pakistan Research Repository, (PRR), is another important initiative which aims at archiving the intellectual output of the country at the regional level and introducing the nation's intellectual heritage at the international level.

Numerous other initiatives have been taken by HEC to improve the quality of education in accordance with the international norms and standards. Special attention has been paid to improve the quality of research conducted at the institutions of higher learning. A number of new, world-class universities have been established and the existing universities have been provided with special grants to support the ongoing research projects not only in the fields of pure and basic sciences but also in the social sciences and humanities. Special programmes have been initiated for the faculty development at the university level. Facilities for on-job trainings have been provided to university faculty and staff and the Tenure Track System has been introduced at the university level to ensure the quality of teaching and education at the public and private universities of the country. Well experienced, foreign faculty has also been hired in all the major disciplines at a highly attractive salary package.

There have been lots of complaints from almost every sector of our society, that the government does not pay due attention to various tasks considered vital for public welfare and general uplift of the common people. Yet, with the groundbreaking initiatives taken by HEC, such complaints obviously become invalid at least for the higher education sector. The revolutionary initiatives taken by HEC have been simply not possible without strong will and generous support of the government. It is probably the first time in the history that the government has allocated so much funds for the higher education sector and has provided the educationists, scientists, and the practitioners of the country with the sort of financial and technical support and facilities which can be only dreamed by the intellectual community of many developed countries.

The nation should be highly grateful to the honourable Professor Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman whose incredible determination, high vision and the unmatched dedication and hard efforts has brought about an unprecedented revolution to the knowledge industry of the country. The world-class IT infrastructure has been built. Our researchers, scholars and scientists now have open access to the worlds most authentic and expensive information resources. They are backed with all kind of financial, professional and technical support. The ball is in the court of the educated lot of the country. It is now time for them to come forward, show their commitment and play their due role in the intellectual and socioeconomic growth of the country.

Raja Muhammad Ibrahim and Ms. Syeda Nasreen Sultana
Library Information Services, CIIT, Islamabad

Pleasures of Reading

Reading is the process of retrieving and comprehending some form of stored information or ideas. These ideas are usually some sort of representation of language, as symbols to be examined by sight, or by touch. Other types of reading may not be language-based, such as music notation or pictograms. By analogy, in computer science, reading is acquiring of data from some sort of computer storage.

Most of us think of reading as a simple, passive process that involves reading words in a linear fashion and internalizing their meaning one at a time. But reading is actually a very complex process that requires a great deal of active participation on the part of the reader.

To get a better sense of the complexity of reading, read what some experts in the field have said about the reading process:

What do we read? The message is not something given in advance--or given at all-- but something created by interaction between writers and readers as participants in a particular communicative situation.

- Roy Harris in *Rethinking Writing*

Reading is asking questions of printed text. And reading with comprehension becomes a matter of getting your questions answered.

- Frank Smith in *Reading without Nonsense*

Reading is a psycholinguistic guessing game. It involves an interaction between thought and language. Efficient reading does not result from precise perception and identification of all elements, but from skill in selecting the fewest, most productive cues necessary to produce guesses which are right the first time. The ability to anticipate that which has not been seen, of course, is vital in reading, just as the ability to anticipate what has not yet been heard is vital in listening

- Kenneth Goodman in *Journal of the Reading Specialist* (1967)

Literacy practices are almost always fully integrated with, interwoven into, constituted as part of, the very texture of wider practices that involve talk, interaction, values, and beliefs.

- James Gee in *Social Linguistics and Literacies* (1996)

As you can see, reading involves many complex skills that have to come together in order for the reader to be successful. For example, proficient readers recognize the purpose for reading, approach the reading with that purpose in mind, use strategies that have proven successful to them in the past when reading similar texts for similar purposes, monitor their comprehension of the text in light of the purpose for reading, and if needed adjust their strategy use. Proficient readers know when unknown words will interfere with achieving their purpose for reading, and when they won't. When unknown words arise and their meaning is needed for comprehension, proficient readers have a number of word attack strategies available to them that will allow them to decipher the meaning of the words to the extent that they are needed to achieve the purpose for reading. Reading is also a complex process in that proficient readers give to the text as much as they take. They make meaning from the text by using their own prior knowledge and experiences. Proficient readers are constantly making predictions while reading. They are continuously anticipating what will come next. Their prior knowledge and experiences with texts as well as with the world around them allow them to do this. It is this continuous interaction with the text that allows readers to make sense of what they are reading.

In this course you will learn about the complexities of the reading process. Understanding the reading process is essential if you are to be an effective content area reading teacher. You will also learn ways to effectively support your students' efforts to read and comprehend your reading assignments, as well as to become proficient independent readers outside of the classroom.

Sometimes you can make meaning from print without being able to identify all the words. Remember the last time you got a note in messy handwriting? Sometimes you can identify words without being able to construct much meaning from them. Read the opening lines of Lewis Carroll's poem, "Jabberwocky," and you'll see what I mean.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

Finally, sometimes you can identify words and comprehend them, but if the processes don't come together smoothly, reading will still be a labored process. Reading in its fullest sense involves weaving together word recognition and comprehension in a fluent manner. These three processes are complex, and each is important. How complex? Here goes:

To develop word recognition, children need to learn:

How to break apart and manipulate the sounds in words – this is Phonemic awareness.

Example: feet has three sounds: /f/, /e/, and /t/

Certain letters are used to represent certain sounds – this is the alphabetic principle

example: s and h make the /sh/ sound

How to apply their knowledge of letter-sound relationships to sound out new words – this is decoding

example: sssssppppooooon – spoon!

How to analyze words and spelling patterns in order to become more efficient at reading words – this is word study

Example: Bookworm has two words I know: book and worm.

To expand the number of words they can identify automatically, called their sight vocabulary

Example: Oh, I know that word – the!

To develop comprehension, children need to develop:

Background knowledge about many topics

Example: This book is about zoos – that's where lots of animals live.

Extensive oral and print vocabularies

Example: Look at my trucks – I have a tractor, and a fire engine, and a bulldozer.

Understandings about how the English language works

Example: We say she went home, not she goes home.

Understandings about how print works

Example: reading goes from left to right

Knowledge of various kinds of texts

Example: I bet they live happily ever after.

Reading also means developing and maintaining the motivation to read. Reading is an active process of constructing meaning. The key word here is active. To develop and maintain the motivation to read, children need to:

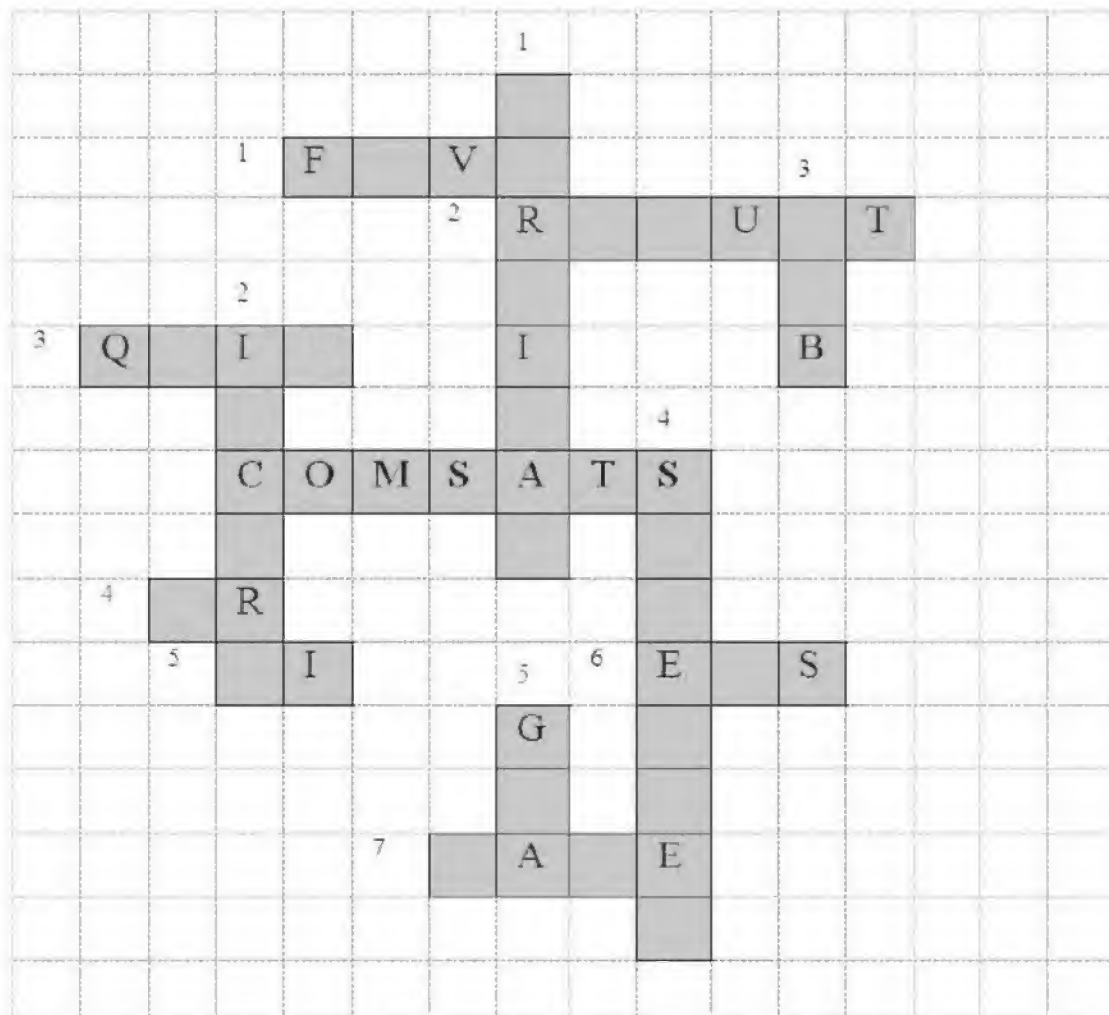
Appreciate the pleasures of reading, view reading as a social act, to be shared with others, see reading as an opportunity to explore their interests, read widely for a variety of purposes, from enjoyment to gathering information and become comfortable with a variety of different written forms and genres.

By: Muhammad Manshoor Hussain
Department of Management Sciences

References:

- <http://www.circleyou.com/Literature.htm>
- <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/352>
- http://www.indiana.edu/~I517/what_is_reading.html

COMSATS CrossWord



solution on page 69

ACROSS:

1. CIIT's HEC-rank
2. a thing which should not be told, especially to parents
3. a type of sudden death, usually four times per semester
4. the most responsible but often useless person of a class
5. most hated word in the campus
6. End-Of-Semester day
7. a heaven on earth, the last refuge in the campus

TOP-DOWN:

1. the local *Day of Judgment*
2. an identification tool which doubles as a paper cutter and a ruler
3. an on-campus torture chamber
4. Should be 8 in four years. Sometimes 9.
5. no more than 4.0, often less than 2.5

A Thousand Splendid Suns.....

He wrote and before the world knew, he had conquered. He is an Afghan writer, Khaled Hosseini's having produced two mesmerizing novels the Kite runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns, no doubt which are a treat for people who want to learn and experience turmoil's embedded in the lap of East. A Physician by profession, though fully dedicated to writing now, Khaled has proved that putting thoughts to words, and ideas to plots needs no inheritance of a learned skill.

A Thousand Splendid Suns is a metaphysical ordeal of two Afghani girls in the backdrop of the wounds endured by their motherland beginning from Russian invasion, continuing even after America's intervention: Mariam, an illegitimate child and Laila, a happy daughter of an educated father.

Odyssey marks its narration from Mariam in her childhood, her entire world: in an isolation of a one room, sun baked mud cabin her only family Nana, her fate-tortured mother cursed her harami, Mariam's only moments to cherish are when her illegal father Jalil, a tycoon from Herat visits her on Thursdays. Her imagination is a kingdom of fantasies where her father lives with her other brothers and sisters play along her.

Dreams shatter when Mariam dares to visit her father in Herat on her fifteenth birthday, stepping outside her cabin for the first time in her life. Reaching a strange land with unknown dimensions, her father refutes to accept her, lest ruining his reputation and condemnation from society. Broken and disillusioned, Mariam returns only to find unexpected horrors waiting.

Life never remains the same.

In another time, not very much later Laila is born in Kabul. Her father Babi caters to her education and her mother Mammy fills the home with compassion: things are as contended as they can be. Laila's only male acquaintance besides her father is Tariq, her friend. From her early years to adolescence mirth is all there to be celebrated until war reaches their heaven. Childhood friendship flows into scandalous feelings.

Bombs explode, bullets sizzle, homes turn into shambles and in the lap of havoc, Laila and Tariq's hearts beat with hunger as an outrageous act is done, but the dreams of a matrimonial future are eclipsed by horrific tentacles of war inducing the deadly doom of mayhem upon them.

Life never remains the same.

One is left at awe as Hosseini plays and moulds the plot leaving Mariam and Laila face to face. From now onwards they are to suffer together the tyranny of chauvinist society symbolised by their common guardian, Rasheed. And this is only the beginning of an epic tale so masterfully narrated. Things long forgotten are revived; characters turn into surprises, a story so simple turns into a saga drenched with romance, war, drama and suspense. The story has mystical way of weaving facts it seems the story of Maryam and Laila are woven like an expensive piece of rug that has something to tell. The story has a unique way of ending. One only feels a mixture of melancholy and love - a unique mixture no doubt written by a unique writer- leaving the reader with a thudding heart, and a long silence.

Khaled Hosseini first made his appearance in the guild of writers with his debut book The Kite Runner in 2003, a best seller. And in 2007 came the A Thousand Splendid Suns. A Physician by profession, though fully dedicated to writing now, Khaled has proved that putting thoughts to words, and ideas to plots needs no inheritance of a learned skill.

A Thousand Splendid Suns has already written history.

Massi'z Mailbox

Dear Massi,

I am a student of EE and I face a multitude problems. To begin with, I become very hypertensive when I am handed an IC and a circuit board. Patching them is far from reality, it breaks as soon as I hold the IC. It seems as if my hands are cursed! I never get the wirings right and end up with short circuits and a burnt down board! It's a complete night mare as I end up being the laughing stock of class.

To top it all I am also the CR of my class and am madly in love with the GR. My friends call me names like "Choking Romeo", "Confused Resistor", etc... (Acronyms for CR) and it becomes down right embarrassing when she is around.

I am desperate for your help...you are my last hope.

-Doomed CR

Dear -Doomed CR

And I thought I was troubled, it seems you are magnetically conducive to troubles. Dude love is eternal abyss haven't you heard !!!!! You have got only two options

1. Either jump into the chasm (love); remember there is no return Romeo. The chances of burning into flames are high. It seems that there is no spark in this, there is just no current; e.m.f. is just too high and you can't possibly built a circuit on that, as your rate of being successful is low.
2. You can shut your eyes shut and open them again and be oblivious to the past. Of course with a new outlook, walk roundabout from this pitch of darkness(love) and live life freely and happily without it free from this viral contraction. This will result into a successful you.

Doomed CR rest of your problems are a piece of cake. Your IC's are always burnt and short circuited because of all this hypertensiveness. According to First law of Thermodynamics the heat from your hypertensive body when goes into your IC is so high that it burns the board down. Only option is to lower it; best remedy is to run 2 ½ miles daily and to drink at least two glasses of lemonade and viola your problem will be resolved.

Dear Massi

I write this letter after losing hope of any change that can appear in me. I am a studious Architect in my sophomore year. I wanna achieve something in life and I know that studies are the key to it all. However, I feel now that I need to work on my looks as well because my friends call me "geeky" and ever since Star World aired Ugly Betty; my friends have started calling me her male counter part: Mr. Ugly Betty. To top it all I have a pure Lahori accent and my voice isn't very manly either. I am skinny, wear clothes three sizes big, do not have broad shoulders...I do have spikes though but even they do not pull the trick for me. Tell me what to do. I am desperate for a response...

Ultimate Desparado.

Dear

Ultimate Desparado.

Don't feel like a Martian in this world of artifice beauty. It seems your confidence is ever low; the best solution for you is to find your Ms. Right that is Ms. Ugly Betty. Success doesn't rely on looks and beauty. Though your situation does seem gloomy it appears to be a case of lengthened teenage period, you will grow out of this phase in a couple of years and there is hope you might sprout into a handsome person after this metamorphosis like butterfly. People with surplus beauty

are seldom gifted with brain so utilize your brain to max, works out at gym do yoga and aerobics this will surely transform you. Feel good, eat well and cherish life.

And dude have some faith in yourself be your self and don't be ashamed of your accent. Now tell me how many people can speak in Lahori accent, none so you are an original piece on these grounds be proud of it.

Dear Massi,

I am a business student and I face a severe problem of stage fright! I do know that presentations are most crucial part of my field but I still fail to improve my presentation skills despite consulting all books on this subject. My nervousness gets completely out of control!!! I can feel myself change colour from my own wheatish brown to beet-root red to pale yellow to bruised blue to aubergine purplish and finally ghostly white and God knows how many other shades in between!!!

But that's not the only problem...I feel as if the lecture hall has started spinning, there are people all around me, I can see them laugh at me as if I am Mr. Bean and then everything becomes a blur and vanishes into oblivion! And that's when I realise that I am back at my seat with my head in my hands.

Please help me out Massi! My grades are being affected by this stage fright!!!

-Mr. Milksop

Dear Mr.Milksop

Don't worry your problem is the leading cause of anxiety and stress amongst the business students, though now this viral fever is spreading to other department of CIIT as well. All prestigious men have had problem of stage fright so among the beetroots you are not a black sheep after all. Abraham Lincoln (Former President of U.S) also faced this problem and he over came it, so can you!!

Don't think of becoming a leading rocker at presentations in one attempt. Giving presentation is an art and you get better after futile attempts. When you go to the rostrum, hide one clove of garlic in your pockets it is suppose to procrastinate laughter's. Walk confidently up on stage, appear calm and poised though you are shaky and sweaty to the toes. Presentation is act of deceit; so appear more intellectual than the audience. Picturing audiences as fruit loops and watermelon is also key way of re-establishing your tempo during the presentation. Don't ever sulk but learn to speak, that helps you in public speaking.

Dear Maasi,

A group of girls in my class is bugging me all the time. It's not like that they tease me or something; they are just so cool and trendy, and I am so simple. Guys talk about them and even try to earn their friendship. Most of them are not good at studies and despite that they are in good books of some teachers. They earn extra favors and I just cannot stop thinking about how they steal other students' chances of ever being noticed. I can't stop hating them. What should I do?

Lost Soul.

Dear Lost Soul,

The real dilemma with you is overlooking the future prospects. These wannabes are the talk of the day. They are hot, but forever, definitely not. Even if they are a dominant subject in boys, just think what hideous things might be said about these divas. I have seen such girls blossom and wither, and believe me, at the end of your graduation there would be some of them already engaged in to-

be matrimonial relationships. And guess what? Everybody would be laughing at the fate of their male partner.

And what you wrote about the extra favours, is an inevitable reality. It happens, and happens almost everywhere, at least in our country. But here I ask you one thing: what CGPAs do these girls already have? I am confident a little above 2.5 or even less. So what's the big deal? Not every teacher in every semester could be a Santa Clause for these little angels...

Listen girl, no matter how much guys appreciate these girls but at the end of the day, their respect, which I believe is the real achievement, is directed to simple and dignified girls. Girls, who even if socialize with the opposite gender, maintain their decency and integrity, are the ones remembered in good words for a long time.

So hate them as much as you want, that's natural!

COMSATS CrossWord
Solution



Re: Synergy 2007 : The Third Step

To begin with, it would be totally dishonest of me to say that this edition of Synergy was not very good. Rather I think that this was a great effort (no matter how many years it took) and one that should be given standing ovation.

What I am intending to do here is rather unique, and quite objectionable: I'll take an article, and write my review about it. So, here we go:

Another Day at COMSHATS: an article that made my mouth twitch to give way for a cynical smile. By the way, is it very hard to find and select not-so-common synonyms of words in Microsoft's Office, just to make the text look much more attractive (Busted, LOL)? Sometimes, I wonder if such an institute exists, and my heart simply denies it.

DNA Computers: do I have to read it? It is a good informative article, but quite boring for people like me, who have a kind of phobia with even the word 'phobia.' And now you want to tell me that biology and computers is merging, that's a nightmare for me. Anyways, don't listen to me, I wouldn't listen to me. Keep up the boring informative work pouring in.

The 7th Sense: I think I finished this one in a couple of sittings, not that it was very long, but because every time I started, my concentration got diverted to something else. So, you can pretty much say that the magnetic field wasn't strong enough. This doesn't mean that the story was a junk. The end was very good, and sociologically speaking it had a good moral.

In Respect of Woman: hey, dude, I really don't know what your intentions are, but don't think they're good. If this is how desperate you are to catch the subject of your article, then God bless you, man. It ain't gonna happen. And if it has, do let me know, I'll send a similar article next time.

Living a Death: It's really astonishing to see, in terms of statistics, the amount of people going to mazaars and peers, uneducated as well as educated. I know I'm crossing the line here, and a lot of people might get offended by it, but the truth is truth.

Written on Water: I could have easily mixed this article with a thesis paper of a graduate of Philosophy, if it wasn't in this magazine.

Trend of settling abroad: this debate can be fought either way, with a lot of valid arguments at both sides. Basically, both are right. Personally I tend more towards settling abroad. It wasn't always like this. After living abroad as well as in Pakistan, I've realized that Pakistan is only for rich people. Other than that, I'd like to settle where my security is guaranteed and my basic human rights are preserved. Religiously speaking, there is no concept of country in Islam, just nation. So, until you are within the nation (meaning in any Islamic country) you are not doing any wrong. Anyways, I'd really like to salute you, Roy.

CAMPUSSHOTs: great, really liked it, specially the 'AGENDA' part. It's more than true.

Problems Faced by Pakistan And their Solution: a good insight into the problems faced by Pakistan and Pakistanis. To be very frank, the solutions were a little vague and lost between the lines. In my personal opinion, our only problem is leadership famine. Right now, all we need is another Jinnah, with probably a longer life. But where I'd totally differ with you is the point where you accused mullahs. Basically it's not the accusation that I disagree with but calling them mullah. Define mullah? One who has beard? Allah's Apostle (SAW) had beard, think about it. This name used to be a very respectful title, but because of the British Rule and the misconceptions spread in their reign; this is used to disregard a man. Now, have you ever wondered why they are ignorant? It's because we have forced them to be. As a great 'favor' we have confined them in a small building called mosque, in which they are to live from birth till death spending as little money as possible, while we devour all the joys of life outside that building. If they go blasting themselves, I don't blame them. They are not a problem of Pakistan, rather can contribute to solve the problem. Also, Islam does not need a General's light to enlighten it. It already has all the lights it need. 'Enlightened' generation is a problem not a solution. 'Enlightened' generation is the one found in a car bought with haram money cruising or racing on the roads of E-7 or F-6 at night. That generation is a threat, which cannot see ahead of its nose.

Bicharay Cops: great choorian, all in one place. Nice work of fiction, good creativity. *mabad*

Read me: a must read. The facts below the article 'Poverty Scan' was unimaginable, unthinkable. This

is a world entrapped in Capitalism. The Rich wants to get richer by sucking every last penny out of the poor. This is a dilemma.

Gulzar Baba: a.k.a Maqsood Bhai from Munna Bhai M.B.B.S. Shame on you A and B.

Chaos: if this was your first effort, it was good. But ever since, I've read this, I'm trying to think of an appropriate moral for this story, but I'm at loss.

Just another article: was least bit of 'just.' But don't go around declassifying students' secrets. Else you'll be kicked out our beloved university (or in your words you'd go for that special scholarship).

You have the right to remain silent: an excellent work of art and creativity, Husaini. After re-reading the article myself, I was convinced that our university is essentially behind every rotten scandal, every story went wrong and every malicious conspiracy that has unleashed. Like the unannounced and unpredictable load shedding is utterly COMSATS fault. It was a 'special person' from COMSATS who advised Bush administration to raid Afghanistan since they were not wearing proper dress shirts and dress pants. It was the same 'special person' who again advised Bush administration this time to invade Iraq because Iraqis were not showing there IDs at all times. And now the motor way police has made the biggest mistake by giving the bid of planning and constructing the 9th avenue to COMSATS' administration. Now, that 'Highway' is a nightmare for everyone. So, COMSATS is basically a pain for everyone. I was just kidding, some guys take it seriously. I really don't want to receive rustication letter before I get the degree in my hand. My man, 'You have the wrong to speak.'

Quaid's Dreams and Today's Pakistan: the message, whatever it was, was not very clear. Although, the article was something quite unique and interesting. I totally agree with you that some people used (rather misused) Islam just to prolong their regime. As their intentions were impure, the result was as catastrophe as their ending. But this does not mean that Islam is to be blamed or religion and politics cannot be embedded. As for the Hudood law is concerned, it had its shortcomings and could have been improved to yield better results. The counterpart that has replaced it is a bigger problem now as it is a door to make Pakistan another Turkey. The answer to all three questions you asked at the end would be negative. Other than a special class, we've not enjoyed any benefit from a separate homeland that was promised to us. In the words of Jinnah himself that all the coins in his pocket are pirated. So, no we were not ready and neither did we do justice to this country. But, there is another question: was demanding for and then getting a separate homeland at that time, a good idea? With all my heart and soul, and with all my little wisdom and experience I think Yes, we did the right thing then. For if we had not done it then, we could easily have been a victim of Gujraat massacre or any such other feud.

A beleaguered Pakistani: astonishingly right. I totally agree. I don't know why I wrote astonishing, maybe because by the look of your name, you seem to be a girl, and girls usually stay away from politics (like boys do from makeup and stuff) plus you are in BBA (that is enough to be considered mentally disturbed, kidding).

Addicto Orkut: you are all over the place, man.

The Urdu Side: all was very good there. I'm glad to realize after reading the Urdu section that we are not that unattached with our mother tongue as I thought we were. Due to shortage of space, I'm not going to analyze it in detail. I'll just write about the article that attracted my attention most 'Urdu ka Janaza.' I agree with you for most of the part, but you are a little too extreme when it comes to injecting foreign languages words in Urdu. I laugh when someone says "Bara nice banda hay," or "beta, apnay meat balls finish kero, then mama ice-cream deingy." But infusing words like 'Receptionist,' 'Room Book,' 'Appointment,' or 'Break' is ordinary, you can't avoid them. This is because Urdu has a very high saturation level. It's a mixture of languages. You don't have words for everything in Urdu, like mobile, TV, tire, or things like that. I agree that we should work on making our own language better and as pure as possible but should not disturb its basis, which is its unique property of dissolving every language in it. Because, that's the key to make it a universal language.

One other thing that was very obvious was that we consider English as some kind of secular language, while Urdu is considered religious. For example, there was no hamd, no na'at, no religious articles in English section, while the Urdu section was filled with it. This trend needs be changed. I don't see any reason why there should not be a hamd, or a na'at, or a couple of religious articles in English as well. We'd use every medium there is to communicate our message.

And so it ends...

کامیٹیس اسلام آباد
Mu'aaz Habib Husaini

JASHN - E - BAHARAN

The annual Jashn-e-Baharan was celebrated in COMSATS Institute of Information Technology on Saturday 19th of April with immense zeal and fervour. Students dressed in traditional dresses busied themselves from as early as 9 o'clock till 5:30 in fun filled activities.

Students of the Management Sciences Department showed their business skills by putting up stalls of different items ranging from eatery to entertainment. Their abilities could be judged by the rush around the stalls as they hauled in more and more people to become a source of their profit maximization.

The stalls doled out a vast array of food items like mouth watering ice cones (gollay ganday), tikkay, fast food items, paan, cold cakes kulfi and COMSATS' very own roll parathay by TRP to name just a few. The entertainment stalls also charmed the day with groups like TEASERS, Jailers and Mehndi circling the ground with their own respective sounds of music. Also present were the stalls with an assortment of flower, poetry and song dedications, stalls that catered to women interest had boutique clothes and pottery. Various stalls sported palmistry and little games like coins in the piggy box and trick o' treat.

The evening sky was covered with the colours of kites; the air was filled with melodious songs played by CIIT's underground band; whereas, not letting go of the festivity, boys danced to traditional beats of bhangra and attar.

The exciting day came to an end with the stall holders counting their profits in cash and memories to cherish till the next spring comes around.

Event Coverage by: Kiren Nazar (Editor, BBA)

Casual Pictures





Casual Pictures

Zodiacs

Aries

When you mess with the bull you get the horns so don't go messing with them because it might not be the coolest idea. Avoid bringing out the wallet in front of friends, it might not weigh the same a while later in your pocket. You are not superstitious but beware of the black cats this year. Absentees will not be adjusted so keep up with the classes. A Gemini can solve some of your problems but can a notorious sign switcher be trusted? Try befriending a Capricorn, even though things will not be good on the opposite side; you can enjoy the outcome. It can be in shape of a pleasant addition in life. (Going to the Reference Library will prove beneficial if you can resist the temptation of talking.)



Taurus

Watch out as cows come flying at you this year!!! Yes it's going to be that erratic. The "friend" you hang out with will show his worth where as you will find your self stuck in a confusion (like it or not) relating very important issues. When it comes to studies, your grades will go up flying if you learn to rely on your own skills than others! Using accessories other than your own can cause you serious consequences so what ever item you hold now; make sure it belongs to you. Beware of the Gemini when it switches its signs. You do not like taking risks and this year around you are in for it. Before befuddling in a treat dig in deep to know its origin the odds will be in your favor. When Mars moves in your sign you can expect a pleasant change but remember you will have to recognize it. Your lucky numbers this year are 6, 3 and 7. (The wiz kid of the class isn't really what he appears)



Gemini

You are the ultimate sign switcher and this year you will do that quite often than ever. There will be days when you might like to bully those who should not even be thought of. And then there will be other days when you will be the puppy of your social circle. Either ways you are advised to know your limits or else the roughest consequences will greet you. Your GPA will be effected because of a certain somebody who is willing to avenge your previous mischief...beware you have been warned! Your emotions are going to take a roller coaster ride in the beginning of the year; you are sure to endanger your closest relations...only the ones who would hold on tight will be your true friends. Depression can be dealt with better solutions so do not opt for stupidity. (Restrain from wandering in the café if you do not want to put your most crucial organs heart and stomach in danger)



Cancer

Finally, it's the right time to indulge in the long overdue make over you desperately needed. You are bound to collide with the fairy god mother of fashion who will take the liberty of extracting you from the constricted world of Geeks. With Saturn and Uranus aligning with your star it seems luck is on your way. The days of geeky scholars are gone. It's time to dispose of those bulky black framed glasses and the sleek gel patted hairstyle has to go. It is time to bring back suaveness. Remember success comes your way only when you invite it with an appealing smile, so take off those braces and by God don't bring along all the books with you to university; Think why library was invented for studying. So go there and put your nose into them, when all your friends have run back home. And you will succeed as a cool dude.



Leo

Every body knows that you can even sell ice to the Eskimos. But this year you haven't got anything to sell, not even ice. Your lordly luck is wearing out. Though you still love to chant "I am the greatest" but you know that you are no more leader of the pack. The "tactful Taurus" has conquered your throne. You can complain loudly as you always do, but there aren't any loyal Aries left to help you out this time. You feel just like a stranded king with not even an inch of land to rule upon. Nevertheless you still have your personality charm, your courage and your bravery. (No matter what you do, the examination department would mail your semester result directly to your dad anyway)



Virgo

During this year your great comedic nature would fade mainly due to a number of repeated upsets. The Cancer being your arch rivals would continue to block your major aims (some teachers would act as huge hurdles in attaining above 3 GPA). You Virgos have the motto "be real, do real" but this year's soup isn't going to be "really" tasty. Look out for the avenging Pisces planning to for a show down and also for the mischievous Scorpio aiming for a back bite. This could be in the form of an out right denial of "on demand" help during exams or an outrageous refusal for allowing assignment copying. To cope with all of this, the Virgo must practice their most basic art: "effective emotion hiding". The cunning Capricorn, if befriended, can also help in making good plans against all offence. But until and unless the year ends, the Virgo must be polite and patient. (Don't even think of strolling in the library without the Student ID card. Beware of the watchful Scorpio)



Libra

Being immensely impartial you like to keep a balance between things. This year your scales might get naughty with you. Since this time you are trying to balance your deep felt emotions and studies you might get attracted to a good looking nerd...a fairly nice way to get good grades but the other side's equal passion for you will be in question. Your assignments can only be submitted timely if you are good to your friends. Lies will get you no where so do not rely on them. Taurus will be a major player in your near future...just nudge the bull in the right direction. Lady luck will shine on you if you can charm her. Be careful when it rains. You will manage to get good grades no matter which short cut you choose. (Books do have amazing facts...try referring them)



Scorpio

Is vengeance sweet or what? Well, this year will offer you all the sweetness in the world. Ample opportunities will surface for you to make your scores even with any one you despised. Think twice before hanging around a Cancer as embarrassments will be quick and everlasting. You will find yourself struggling unusually hard at Calculus and other fields of Mathematics...this is certainly not a year for numbers. Your grades might fall lower than before as you will be busy with other stressing issues like making cheat slips. However, take heed to the teachers who believe in making conceptual papers. Your projects will make you flip eggs; do not let them get to you. Take help from an analytical Virgo. (Disciplinary committee is awaiting trouble makers; you appear to be the perfect bait!)



Aquarius

This semester will bring ample amount of accolades. Every thing will run smooth and most importantly in accordance to your wishes. You will get a 3 plus GPA and that to without any serious studying. You hardly need to open Ohh... No... No buy any books. These skimpy and useless books are no match to your genius. As Gemini and Taurus are your very hard studying partners it seems your academic future rests on there feeble shoulders. There will be an uncanny relationship with them. You will be blessed with gift of telepathy, and that to at the righttime (i.e. at fist and second sessionals and finally by grace of God in the terminal exams) it seems that your success is destined with all that sharing of knowledge. But be aware you need to steer your friends in the right direction and do so at all COST! Make sure they hit their books on daily basis as your success depends consequently on them.



Capricorn

This semester if you think you have finally have gotten the hang of "The art of giving presentations" Then think again it seems bad luck is stuck to you like a gum. There is nothing you can do to prevent it; you are under the shadow of a spell casted by a witch in your class. It appears, as you will be struggling for entire four months stammering and hobbling through the entire presentations, making a joke of yourself. Have no fear although you are stuck like that for some time, your star is desperately trying to move out of the lunar eclipse so there is yet some hope! Just try to be unobtrusive for some time, remaining unnoticed is a key to safe passage through the semester.

Try not to show too much coolness, as these days are very disruptive, any thing going your way like 4.0 GPA, excellent PR can be ruined by a Taurus friend whose tongue is prone to accidental revelations.



Sagittarius

This year is full of agitation; espionage and some back biting. You have finally learned that scholarship can't be obtained by mere knowledge it demands more; more from your side. Enlighten the dark diabolical part of your brain. The stars are perfectly aligned and are echoing enchantments of satanic doom for your success. It is time to take the ball back into your court. start improvising relations with teachers and build PR. Nothing can elevate your status than strictly spying your enemy (position holder of last semester) Spy his / her every move and try to be on top of him and be ready for intensive battle. Room for success is very small but it doesn't hurt to try. Just remember to present a friendly visage. Success can be painful you might have to trip the enemy over, finally to win the marathon. Only thing we can do is "Wish you Success!"



Pisces

Though the Pisces are always generous and friendly but some of the Pisceans aren't willing to be the same this year. Especially your former friend Aquarius is now allied with your rival Gemini (the lab assistant is not going to appreciate your work for two months at least). But fear not, the Scorpio and the Sagittarius are willing to help you out, if and only if you promise to solve their next Calculus home work. But using your superior stupidity you would simply like to reply them: "leave me alone!" But what if they really left? Indeed you can't afford fewer friends during this needful year. The Leo and the Virgo are crisis stricken as well, so forging an alliance with them wouldn't help much. (You must have to do your lab work all by yourself this time)





Horrific Blunders by Synergy Editors

- Some of the editors like Shehryar Imtiaz and another one (name can't be published because of its top secret classification) excelled in remaining out of scene and under cover for almost 2 months with their cell phones turned off. One editor is still missing as you are reading these lines.
- One of the editors of English section, Sadia Awan's e-mail account got hacked by some unknown elements (still at large, search continues...).
- Sir Mehdi Abbas (our beloved coordinator) went one step ahead in search of glory and misplaced "song parodies" done by almost forty students, a week before the publication dead line.
- Editors of Urdu section turned out to be the heirs of Nelson Mandela and as a sign of protest resigned twice from Synergy. And each time they were lured back by Sir Mehdi.
- One editor Shehryar of English section was threatened to be reported to Rector and Provost by a female student while conducting a survey about "whose better girls or boys?"
- Somehow the team of Synergy-5 was selected even before previous team was dissolved (hai na democracy phir?)
- Somehow the approved tender notice had 12 pages less than initially proposed.
- Another editor of Urdu section, Mubi bhai as we call him, in order to show his expertise started using Sir Mehdi's PC and ended up crashing the Windows, apathy is that still he remains confident that he's innocent.
- Editors of English section remained divided all along into two separate rival groups, boys and girls (can you believe?), they never had a single editorial board meeting with everyone present (fears of breakage of world war3)
- Some even found time to get married in the midst of all chaos.
- Funding for the "Interview of a Personality" for Urdu section was released after the interview was conducted.
- During the whole tenure of the editorial board, three editors graduated, two left CIIT on personal reasons, one got married, one got a job and the rest tried to resign whenever they could (eventful! isn't it?)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Dr. S M Junaid Zaidi, SI, (Rector) and Dr. Qaisar Abbas (Provost), who encouraged and supported the team throughout the process.
- Mr. Mazhar Habib (Incharge Magazine), Ms. Gulshan Zahra (Coordinator Magazine), Mr. Mehdi Abbas (Assistant Coordinator) for their supervision and guidance.
- Mr. Zulqamain Jaffari and Mr. Mansoor Shoukat for their guidance and help in the finalization of Urdu Section of Synergy.
- Rana M. Rashid Qamar (late) for his help and ideas. (May His Soul Rest In Peace).
- Khawar Naeem (Chief editor, Synergy 2007) for his help in the English section. Syed Arooj Akhter (Chief editor, Synergy 2006) for guiding the Urdu editors, Aahsan Iqbal for his great help in graphic design of Urdu Section, Mr. Muhammad Wasim Awan for Urdu Typing and Semra, BBA for sketches.
- Mr. Raja Ibrahim (Senior librarian) and his Staff for providing resources for the event coverage.
- Ms. Madiha Syed, Mr. Arif Masud, Ms. Atiya Siddiqui, Ms. Aqeela Asif, Mr. Habib Ahmed Noor, Mr. Manshoor Hussain, Ms. Quratulain and Ms. Marium Haider for their kind help and assistance.

... and all others whose help made this issue of Synergy a reality.

IMAGE CREDITS:

Apart from the original artwork, many free-to-use or stock images, textures and PS-brushes were used in the Magazine's graphic-design. For this the editors thank the following people or websites: urdupoint.com, makki-style.com, devianfart.com, sxc.hu

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

تقریب تقسیم اسناد (18th Convocation) ۲۰۰۹ء





سیمی شماره چہارم



کامیٹس انسٹیٹیوٹ آف انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی، اسلام آباد